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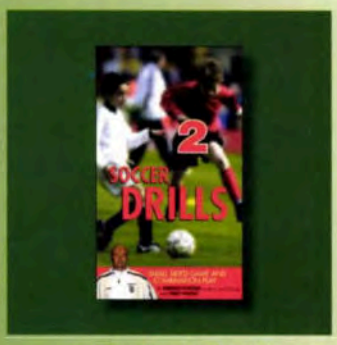

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SEPTEMBER 2004

WORLD SOCCER comment

AT THE RISK of stating the bleeding obvious, money dominates football and has brought many advantages to many people in many countries. But it is also the root of everything that is wrong with the modern game.

From players misbehaving on and off the pitch, to the negative tactics now needed to win major tournaments, to the ongoing crisis at the Football Association, the game is in danger of losing touch with the values that attracted so many people to the sport in the first place.

If only 'Svengate' were a mere sex scandal! Instead, it has exposed the way in which the FA is now infected with the same greed and commercialism that dominates the Premier League. When faced with an England manager who was contemplating an offer from moneybags Chelsea, the FA's solution was to throw more cash at the problem. Then, when Sven Goran Eriksson's record as the most successful England manager since Alf Ramsey was deemed not good enough, the search for scapegoats began.

There is an arrogance about the whole affair that assumes that all football fans are stupid; that anything can be justified as long as you are making money. Yet the attitude is seeping through the game. Nobody is fooled by the 'rebranding' of the Football League into The Championship, yet it has been inflicted upon us nonetheless.

It's not fashionable to hark back in football, but the game needs to look to its past if it is to discover what it is missing and what it is in danger of losing for ever. We could even do with the odd old fart back in charge. The marketing whizzkids have made their fast buck and it is time for them to leave the building. 'Bring back the blazers!' might not be a popular slogan, but at least we would know where we stood.

It's a strange backdrop on which to start the new season in Europe. I hope you find this month's issue both enjoyable and informative. We have not included squad lists from the major European leagues in this issue because our deadlines prevented us from including the later transfers. We will publish them in subsequent issues once the transfer window has closed.

Next month, we publish our definitive guide to the UEFA Champions League and we will also be offering *World Soccer* readers the chance to write for the magazine in an exciting new competition.

Enjoy the season!

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 54

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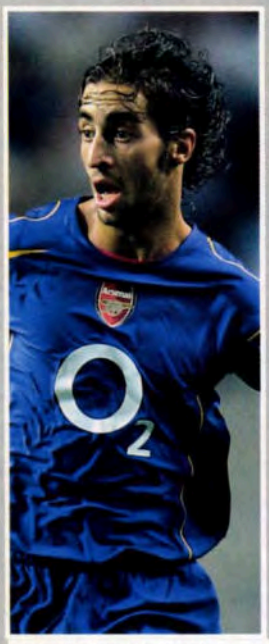

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06/07/04

Brazil-born Deco signs for Barcelona from European champions FC Porto

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Hosts Peru kick off their Copa America campaign with a 2-2 draw against Bolivia in Lima's National stadium

06/07/04

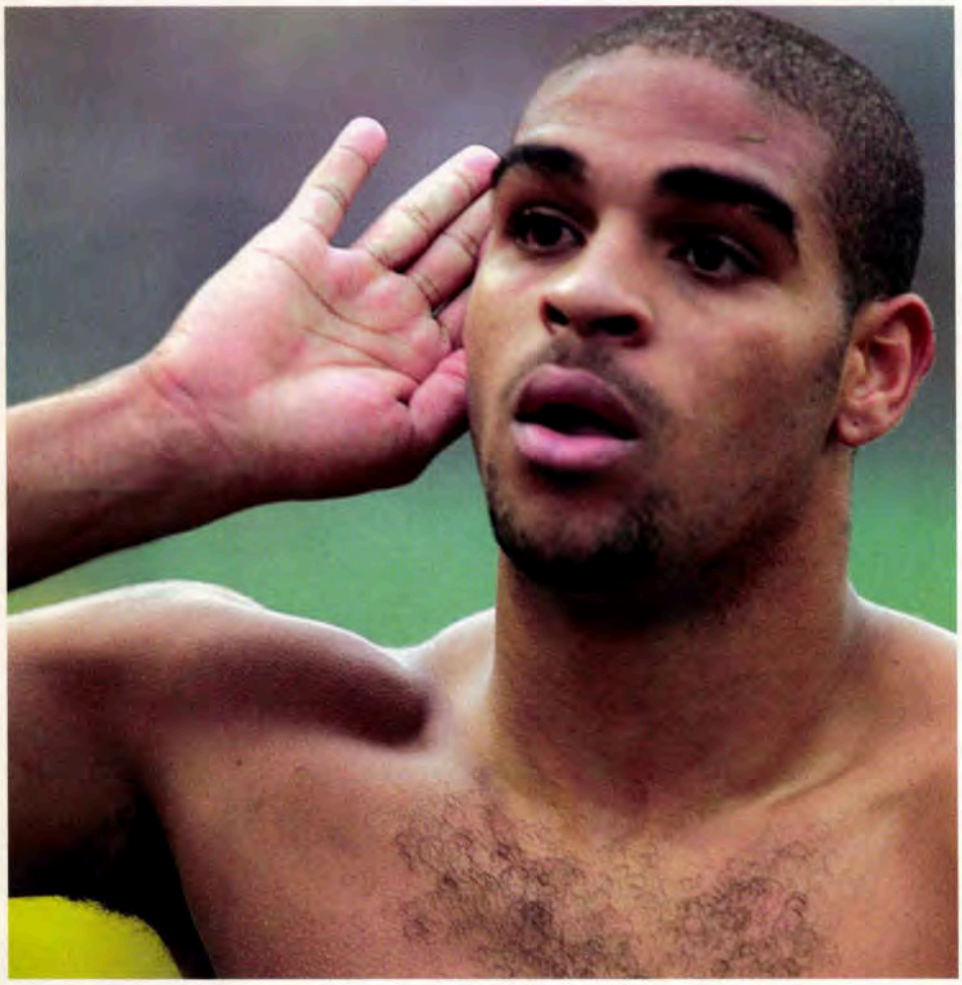
Italian striker Bernardo Corradi signs for Valencia

06/07/04

HEADLINERS

ADRIANO

The Emperor strikes back



IN PERU THEY called him 'The Emperor' – and Adriano of Brazil really did reign over the Copa America, scoring goals in the south, the north and the capital. It was the most decisive individual contribution to a tournament since – well, since Ronaldo at the last World Cup.

Comparisons between Adriano and Ronaldo are obvious. Both had deprived upbringings on the wrong side of the tracks in Rio de Janeiro, Ronaldo in the poor suburbs, Adriano in one of the most notoriously violent *favelas*.

They both talk about ending their career in the city with Flamengo, where Adriano first started out. And they are firm friends. When Adriano made the move to Italy's Parma he was surprised and delighted when Ronaldo, then still at Inter, sought him out and eased his adaptation.

Then there is the combination of power and skill they both use to destroy defences. Adriano does not run with the ball as devastatingly as Ronaldo, but is better in the air. And where Ronaldo is right-footed, Adriano's chief weapon is his left.

"Ronaldo has a guaranteed place in the Brazil team and nobody can argue with it," said Adriano at the Copa America. "But there are players here looking to show their qualities. I want to take as much advantage as possible, then hopefully one day I can play alongside him."

Indeed, Brazil's football in the tournament often left the impression that the strikers were competing against each other for the right to a place alongside Ronaldo. There was not a great deal of interplay between Luis Fabiano and Adriano. The former went into the competition as Brazil's first attacking reserve – a position that has now surely passed to the latter.

'Ronaldo has a guaranteed place in the Brazil team, and hopefully one day I can play alongside him'

But is there space for Adriano, now with Inter, in a line-up already including Ronaldo, Kaka and Ronaldinho? Adriano doubts it. "It's unlikely the four of us can play together because we all have such attacking characteristics," he says.

And there is an obvious problem with a front pair of Ronaldo and Adriano. Both favour the left channel. So the Copa America has left Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira with something of a headache – for which he will be envied by every other coach in the world.

Tim Vickery

Argentina thrash Ecuador 6-1 at the Copa America

07/07/04

Luis Fabiano celebrates his last-minute winner for Brazil against Chile in their Copa opener

08/07/04

Paraguay, with an Under-23 side, edge past Costa Rica in their first Copa match

08/07/04

Mexico inflict a surprise defeat on Copa America favourites Argentina, winning 1-0 in Chiclayo

10/07/04

MARCO VAN BASTEN

Man with a mission at Holland's helm

MARCO VAN BASTEN, who until recently wanted nothing more to do with football, is the new man in charge of the Dutch national side. His mission, he says, is simple: to get the team playing attractive football again.

Immediately after Dick Advocaat's post-Euro 2004 resignation, the usual names were mentioned as potential replacements. But with Frank Rijkaard (Barcelona), Ronald Koeman (Ajax) and Ruud Gullit (Feyenoord) all unavailable and Co Adriaanse (AZ) and Wim Van Hanegem (Advocaat's assistant) deemed unsuitable, there were few options left.

Dutch FA director Henk Kesler flew to Barcelona to consult Johan Cruyff, who recommended Van Basten and John Van't Schip, the Ajax reserves coach.

Van Basten's appointment was a big surprise. After being forced to retire with a severe ankle injury in 1993, the former Milan striker spent all his time playing golf. Two years ago, he signed up for a coaching course but showed no real ambitions, eventually returning to Ajax, his first club. He had already turned down a request to become Guus Hiddink's assistant at PSV. But when the Dutch FA came calling, on the recommendation of Cruyff, he couldn't refuse.

At his first press conference Van Basten made his intentions clear. "Our goal is to play attractive and attacking football," he said. "We should take the initiative, starting from the back. Football should be fun again. The players should have fun on the pitch, while the fans should return home in a satisfied mood."

The requirement to play attractive football has even been written into Van Basten's contract!

He has surrounded himself with former Ajax colleagues Van't Schip and Rob Witschge (both assistants) and Stanley Menzo (goalkeeper coach). "They have enough experience," insists Van Basten. "It's logical to choose a staff of people I know. And that they are all from Amsterdam doesn't matter."

Klaas-Jan Droppert

PAUL SCHOLES

Man United star joins international farewells

MANCHESTER UNITED midfielder Paul Scholes has announced his retirement from international football in order to spend more time with his family. Scholes's decision took many by surprise, but the 28-year-old will now devote all his energies to playing for his club.

Others ending their international careers after Euro 2004 included the France defensive trio of Marcel Desailly, Bixente Lizarazu and Lilian Thuram, with Zinedine Zidane said to be undecided as to his future.

In Holland, Marc Overmars announced his retirement from the game completely, citing long-standing injuries, while Jaap Stam, Michael Reiziger and the De Boer twins, Frank and Ronald, quit the national side.

Christian Ziege was poised to join Carsten Ramelow and Jens Jeremies in retiring from the German national team.

Colombia top their Copa America group after a 2-2 draw with hosts Peru in Trujillo

12/07/04

Roberto Ayala scores Argentina's crucial third goal in a 4-2 defeat of Uruguay, having been 1-0 down early on

13/07/04

Norwegian international striker John Carew signs for Besiktas of Turkey

14/07/04

Hristo Stoichkov is the new national coach of Bulgaria

15/07/04

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

...on why Svengate should not have been a surprise... Germany's appointment of Jurgen Klinsmann as national coach...the rights and wrongs of Sepp Blatter

THE so-called Svengate Affair has lifted a large stone at Soho Square, from beneath which all manner of slimy creatures have crawled out. Some never to return.

But maladministration and ineptitude have long been bywords at the FA, ever since the departure of the authoritarian Stanley Rous from the secretaryship to become FIFA president in 1962.

Since then, we have had the compromise candidate Denis Follows, a decent mediocrity, when we should have had the retiring England team manager Walter Winterbottom, who seemed ideal. But his hopes were scuppered by the devious machinations of Sir Harold Thompson, the paranoid scientist who had free rein once Rous, who used to swat him like a fly, had gone. Thompson maniacally (as UEFA vice-president) ranted at my *Sunday Times* investigation into Italian clubs' Euro corruption, and failed to nail Don Revie – who walked out on the England job – because he tried to act as judge and jury.

Later came the reign of Kelly the Jelly and Bert the Inert; otherwise known as Graham Kelly and Bert Millichip. Kelly, though an ex-secretary of the Football League, made common cause with the big clubs to form what I've called The Greed Is Good League, then dealt himself out of the game by crazily combining with his Southampton coroner chairman, Keith Wiseman, to try to pay the Welsh to support the coroner for an international committee role at the expense of Scotland's decent David Will.

The appointment to chief executive of the lamentable Adam Crozier was always going to be disastrous. It was revealed months before that Crozier had been in trouble at the *Daily Telegraph* for his imaginative advertising accounts. Don't worry, a senior FA executive reassured me, there's plenty of time until the appointment is made. Then Crozier was appointed.

He proceeded to move the FA headquarters from Lancaster Gate to Soho Square at huge cost and reportedly without full consultation with the relevant committee. Crozier also sacked many of the old guard, declaring that he found the FA a shambles. He certainly left it as such, hugely in debt and full of £80,000-a-year lady marketing executives.

'Give Mark Palios credit for largely clearing up the shambles he inherited at the FA. But, in theatrical parlance, he has stunk the place out'

Give Crozier's successor, the egregious Mark Palios, credit for the fact that he largely cleared up the shambles of the shambles. But Palios, in theatrical parlance, has stunk the place out and, alas, brought naively misguided communications director Colin Gibson down with him.

First, like Seven-Year-Itch Sven, Palios had a foolishly indiscreet affair with the ubiquitous Faria Alam, secretary to FA executive director David Davies; Eriksson followed in what might be politely called his footsteps. Then Palios concocted his repugnant and self-defeating scheme to make Eriksson the sacrificial goat (well, the goat part of it seems right) while keeping himself out of the public view.

Quite why Gibson, such a highly competent and prominent sports editor in his day, should have been persuaded to go along with the nauseating scheme, who can say? But he did, he diced with death, and lost. Who couldn't cringe when reading the transcript of his conversation with the *News of the World*? Then back comes Davies from holiday to stand outside HQ and launch into a fatuous eulogy of the England coach and his largely invisible qualities.

In truth, Eriksson failed in both the 2002 World Cup and Euro 2004. That the idiotic Palios, when it was known that Eriksson had again been playing footsie with Chelsea's Roman Abramovich, should actually give him a new deal at £4million-plus before Euro 2004 even took place, passed understanding. And Palios did this, it seems, with minimal consultation. You might call it a disloyalty bonus.

Oh yes, the nitwit players want Eriksson, as they'd want any coach who picks them and defers to them. As he did when they, correctly, wanted a tactical change in Portugal; and when he ludicrously seemed to sympathise with them when they made that petulant

The 13th Asian Cup finals kick off with a colourful opening ceremony in Beijing

17/07/04

Colombia beat Costa Rica 2-0 in the Copa America quarter-finals

17/07/04

Uruguay reach the Copa semi-finals after a 3-1 victory over Paraguay

18/07/04

threat to strike over the omission of Rio Ferdinand from the squad to face Turkey last October.

Eriksson had his apogee when England thrashed Germany 5-1 in Munich, but wiser critics than I – notably, the blessed Trevor Brooking and Gary Lineker – deplored his stewardship in Portugal.

Geoff Thompson? Merely the latest in a line of inept FA chairmen, inexplicably exonerating Palios before the relevant committee could even convene. Just as the benighted FA initially jumped the gun after Davies spoke of Eriksson, denying any misbehaviour and issuing legal threats.

Then with one bound, Eriksson was free.

THE peculiar appointment of Jurgen Klinsmann as the new Germany coach infuriated his old rival Lothar Matthaus, presently the Hungarian national team boss. But why?

True, Klinsmann, despite his coaching certificate, has no managerial experience at all. True, the possibility of cronyism couldn't be excluded. True, he's said it would take a decade to get things right. But who, after watching Germany's feeble performance in Portugal, could seriously doubt him?

On the positive side, the Germans will be playing nothing but friendlies for the next two years since they are hosting the 2006 World Cup. Perhaps during that period the pitiful dearth of young emerging talent may have ended. Whatever, the sequence of friendlies means that Klinsmann cannot seriously be judged.

Klinsmann might also console himself with the fact that Germany went all the way to the 2002 World Cup Final. But their pedestrianism, like that of Greece's Euro 2004-winning side, tells you much about the poverty and mediocrity of the current international scene.

'Klinsmann says it could take a decade to get it right. Who, after watching Germany's feeble efforts at Euro 2004, could seriously doubt him?'

Indeed, had Oliver Kahn not given away that dreadful goal in the Final against Brazil, hard on the heels of being named the tournament's best keeper, who can be sure what would have happened? Brazil were no heir to the teams that had won the World Cup in the past.

BLATTER right and wrong. He was quite right to question Alex Ferguson's logic when he resented the loss of Cristiano Ronaldo and Gabriel Heinze to the Olympics on the grounds of potential exhaustion, then took United on an exhaustive tour of the USA, for plain financial reasons, claiming it wouldn't take anything out of his men!

Wrong, when in China, mischievously to claim that the Chinese invented football: on the apparent basis of drawings that showed ancient Chinese in long gowns kicking a wicker ball about.

Soccer's rugged origins – "a bloody and murthering practice," in the words of one chronicler – were emphatically in England, in the Middle Ages, whether played by London apprentices or ferociously on Shrove Tuesday in various venues.

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

Notes & quotes

"Only one team deserved to win this Final and that was us."
Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa bemoans his side's bad luck after losing the Copa America Final to Brazil on penalties.

Final combat...Gustavo Nery v Zanetti

"It was a game without the angel of inspiration."
The Copa Final did not move romantic former Argentina coach Cesar Luis Menotti.

"It looks as though the referee had the firearm on his person and shot at the players first and then hit the coach in the chest."
A police spokesman in the South African town of Kenton-on-Sea describes how a referee reacted to protests about a booking by shooting dead a coach and wounding two players.

"The media are backing Marco. But no matter how big he was as a player, he is still learning as a coach."
Dick Advocaat is not particularly impressed by the choice of Marco Van Basten as his successor as Holland boss.

Argentina enjoy a comfortable 3-0 victory over Colombia in their Copa America semi-final

20/07/04

Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo, who left Cruzeiro earlier this year, returns to Europe to sign for Olymplakos

22/07/04

Brazil celebrate their Copa America win over Argentina

25/07/04

Saudi Arabia crash out of the Asian Cup after losing to Iraq

26/07/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Paul Gardner**

Entertainment? Bah, humbug!

Scrooge-like coaches are pushing the game towards full-blown disaster

IF EBENEZER SCROOGE had been a coach, his team would have played like Greece 2004.

To Scrooge all that mattered was coming out on top. He happened to be in the money-making game, but he'd surely have applied his successful, hard-hearted methods to football. A single-minded devotion to success, no time for frivolity. His football would have been a mean-spirited affair, shorn of anything suggesting enjoyment or entertainment. Functional, you bet – but a withered, dried up travesty of the game.

Goals? Bah, humbug! A luxury! Keep that sort of stuff to a minimum. No more than one a game, that should do it.

Make way, here comes our modern soccer Scrooge, Otto Rehhagel, to show that things can indeed be done – and won – that way. "The fun is over now and this is dead serious," said Rehhagel as he shut his Greeks away in their training camp. "It's work, work, work," defender Michalis Kapsis said, and how Scrooge would have loved that. In six games at Euro 2004 Kapsis and his skinflint Greek colleagues went slightly over the top – they scored seven goals.

So Scrooge has it about right. Bah, humbug! to goalscoring: a team averaging under 1.2 goals per game can win a major international tournament! A state of affairs that raises some serious questions about this game of ours.

Is this what we want, this Scrooge-soccer? You have to wonder. Rehhagel has collected a lot of praise – not only for his team's win, but also even for the manner in which that win was achieved.

Flavour-of-the-season coach Jose Mourinho says: "Rehhagel did wonderful work. He adapted the team to the players' qualities. He had no stars, no players coming from the moon…they played for the supporters. They played to win."

UEFA's director of coaching, Andy Roxburgh, commented: "Otto Rehhagel has fixed ideas and imposed them on his players, who responded brilliantly."

This was to be expected. Coaches magnanimously praising a fellow coach for a remarkable achievement. But there's more. Not only is Rehhagel being lauded, but the concept of coaching is being praised to the skies.

Because in this victory for Scrooge-soccer it seems to be generally agreed coaching was the important, the dominant, maybe the sole, begetter of the triumph. Look at those quotes again: Mourinho emphasising that there were no stars, Roxburgh insisting the players had Rehhagel's ideas "imposed" on them. Mourinho speculated: "Maybe football is changing and teams are the big thing, not individuals."

'Do we want football or boredom? Thanks to Rehhagel and the Greeks the choice is clear'

Clever, Jose, clever. That sounds like a populist slogan – a call for the ordinary guys to work together and outshine those overpaid, underperforming and nothing-but-trouble stars. But it is no such thing. It is really a rallying call for coaches.

Where Mourinho says "teams" read "coaches". During Euro 2004 the coaches clearly were considered a big thing – at least by the TV directors. I kept some unofficial stats. During the Greece v Czech Republic semi-final we got 24 cutaways to Rehhagel and 29 to Karel Bruckner. During the Final, Rehhagel and Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari shared 33.

With that sort of attention, it is quite likely Mourinho and most of our overpaid and underwhelming coaches sincerely believe that they are the team, that there is no team until their ideas are "imposed".

Stars fading

To put it mildly, this is unfortunate. To be more direct, it's a bloody great disaster. Implicit in the coach-as-team mentality is the requirement that the players come second, that they will do what they're told. That logically means a team are better off without stars, who tend to have their own ideas on how to best use their abilities.

Can that really be where Mourinho and Roxburgh want the sport to be heading? Maybe UEFA's technical report, to be produced under Roxburgh's guidance, will enlighten us. Considering the

Liverpool, under new coach Rafael Benitez, thrash Celtic 5-1 in a pre-season friendly match in the United States

27/07/04

New Chelsea signing Mateja Kezman is sent off for violent conduct in a friendly match against Roma in Pittsburgh

29/07/04

Do it my way...Otto Rehhagel keeps a stern eye on his charges during their Euro 2004 triumph

Greeks took the sport back at least 30 years, we can expect to read some variation on the theme that "the tournament offered nothing new on the tactical front" – a phrase that has become a given for these reports and for FIFA's similar outpourings after each World Cup.

Nothing new. So how were Greece able to succeed where England, France, Spain, Italy and Portugal failed? What made Scrooge-soccer so successful?

Simply this: the fact football has become, slowly but surely over the past three or four decades, a sport in which defence – in all its manifestations, from obnoxiously bossy goalkeepers to intimidating full-backs to mind-numbingly dull tactics – is the name of the game.

It has become meaningless to talk of a balance between attack and defence. There is no balance – defence dominates.

I won't bother to back that up statistically. Just the melancholy words 'lone forward' will make the point. Forty years ago, probably less, the idea that football could be played with just one forward would have been ridiculed.

Yet we've now reached the stage where we're told this is the way football should be played. Not only that, but even this pathetic, isolated surviving forward must be sure to pay attention to his defensive duties!

That's the way Greece played it at Euro 2004. And we all owe a huge vote of thanks to them. For they carried this pernicious trend to a logical conclusion, they gave us Scrooge-soccer at its utmost ...and in doing so they have given the sport a wake-up call.

Time to decide: Do we want football that shows off all its riches, beauty and excitement? Or do we want the shrivelled-up Scrooge version?

Do we want football? Or do we want boredom? Thanks to Rehhagel and his grafting Greeks, the choice is now starkly clear.

Notes & quotes

"It's nonsense."
Sven Goran Eriksson's reaction when questioned by the FA's David Davies about allegations that he had an affair with Davies's secretary, Faria Alam.

"Which club in the world would say no to having him in their team? He's always welcome here."
Diego Della Vale, the president of Fiorentina, reveals his desire to convince Roberto Baggio to come out of retirement and return to the promoted Serie A club.

"It has to be a risk that we've once again put someone in charge of our national team who has never coached a club."
Legendary ex-Bayern Munich and Borussia Monchengladbach coach Udo Lattek does not see any logic in the appointment of Jurgen Klinsmann as the new *Nationalmannschaft* boss.

Inexperienced...Klinsmann

"We are not in a position to fulfil the expectations of our fans."
Former Czech international striker Pavel Kuka seems ready to give up before a ball is kicked in anger at Slavia Prague.

Mark Palios resigns as the Football Association's chief executive

01/08/04

Serb defender Sinisa Mihajlovic joins Internazionale from Lazio

02/08/04

Japan celebrate their controversial victory over China in the Final of the Asian Cup in Beijing

07/08/04

First blood to Arsenal as the champions beat FA Cup holders Man United 3-1 in the Community Shield

08/08/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Jim Holden**

The stark choice over Sven

The coach's troubles give the green light to England's xenophobes

THERE HAVE BEEN some pleasing triumphs in the past few years for those of us who have long yearned for English football to acquire the sophistication and technical excellence of the continental game.

When Jurgen Klinsmann arrived at Tottenham he was confronted by the militant xenophobic tendency in full shrill battle-cry accusing him of being a cheating diver. The German striker won them over with dignity and charm.

Dennis Bergkamp had another old chestnut thrown his way, that he was a foreign faintheart whose sublime skills would be crushed by the Premiership's awesome power. Ten years on, the Dutchman is still there, his talent undiminished.

The work of intelligent club managers like French pair Gerard Houllier and Arsene Wenger has also been an education to the English game, radically transforming the outlook of both rival coaches and young players alike.

But we knew English football was truly serious about shedding its stifling cloak of insularity the day Sven Goran Eriksson was appointed head coach of the England team. All the world took notice. This was England eating humble pie, acknowledging in the profoundest manner possible the need to learn from others.

Since then it has been a roller-coaster ride. A honeymoon start with that 5-1 win in Munich stilled the initial fury of the xenophobes. Passive defeat to Brazil in the 2002 World Cup quarter-final provoked a fresh fusillade of criticism. Comfortable qualification for Euro 2004 then stirred patriotic belief England would lift the title.

Perceptive continental observers like Johan Cruyff and Michael Laudrup saw things differently. Yes, they saw welcome signs of progress in the England team under Eriksson, certainly more tactical maturity. But, no, the English were not ready yet; their passing and technique were still insufficient. Events at Euro 2004 confirmed the logic of this analysis.

Logic, though, was conspicuous by its absence in the aftermath. Shamefully, the English mob hounded Swiss referee Urs Meier for disallowing an injury-time 'winning goal' in the quarter-final. And when this outrage subsided, they turned on Eriksson again.

Along came that jolly standby of the English inquisition – a sex scandal. Eriksson had a relationship with an attractive FA secretary. So what? Well, that would have been the response in every other major football nation. Instead, FA chief executive Mark Palios and Colin Gibson, the communications director, actively plotted against him.

'Eriksson had a relationship with an attractive FA secretary. So what? That would have been the response in every other major football nation'

The truth of this grubby betrayal swiftly emerged into the sunlight and left the world of soccer once again laughing with incredulity at the stupidity of the English.

Several FA board members, encouraged by media xenophobes, wanted Eriksson sacked from his £4 million-a-year post – but these revelations made that impossible.

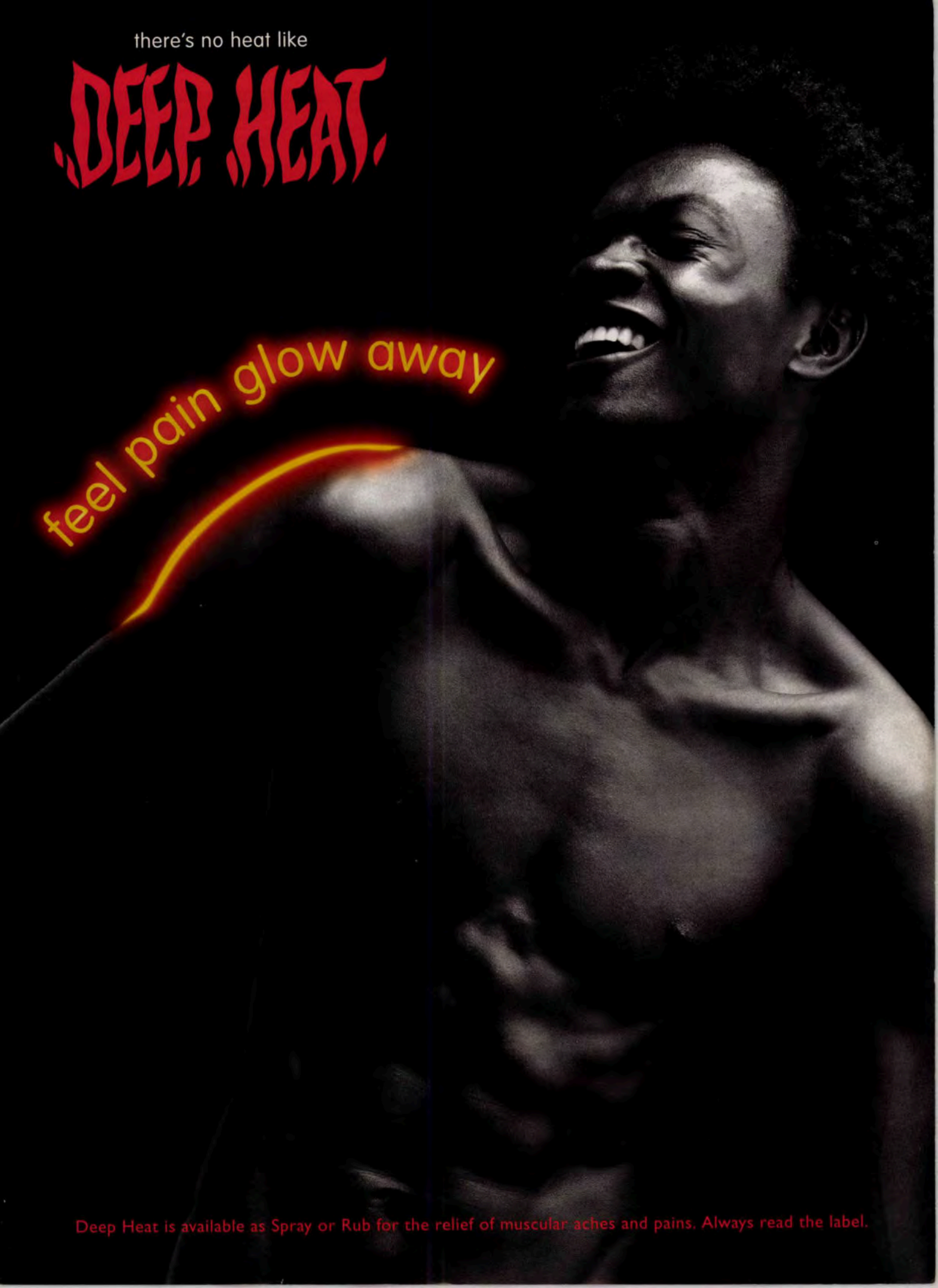
Paradoxically, the whole tawdry episode may actually have strengthened Eriksson's position as well as boosting the long struggle against the destructive insularity of English football.

The response of the players, who openly backed Eriksson throughout, suggested this. So, too, did public support from various supporters' organisations.

Comments from Sam Allardyce, the Bolton manager, were also fascinating. Allardyce is a hero to the Little Englanders; he is widely perceived to represent the old-fashioned English football boss.

Yet he was incensed by the treatment of Eriksson, saying: "After all that has happened to Sven you wonder whether anybody will ever want to be the England manager again. The minute you do the 'wrong' thing your life becomes unbearable and your job untenable. Your life is destroyed. And you have to ask yourself, do you really want that?"

Sophistication or sex scandal? Intelligence or insularity? Technique or failure? The choice is the same as it ever was for English soccer.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Deep Heat is available as Spray or Rub for the relief of muscular aches and pains. Always read the label.

Strength in numbers

Power was the key for Brazil in their Copa America Final victory

TIM VICKERY in Lima

IN THE 1982 WORLD CUP Brazil's midfield played the football of dreams, their giant left-footed striker was a flop, and they lost. Twenty-two years later in the Copa America the opposite happened.

Adriano's superb last-second equaliser on the spin in the Final left Argentina in no psychological state for a penalty shoot-out. Their superiority had been so great and so little time remained after Cesar Delgado had put them 2-1 ahead that they could be excused for thinking it was all over. Adriano's goal left them with the look of men caught sleepwalking in the middle of a nightmare.

It was the revenge of the big left-footed striker. In 1982 the intricate moves of Zico, Socrates, Cerezo and Falcao foundered at the feet of Serginho Chulapa. Now there were few intricate moves, little creation of space, no artistic elaboration – and Adriano won the title for Brazil. As well as scoring the late equaliser, he also converted his side's first penalty in the shoot-out, which Brazil won 4-2.

What he did to Argentina in July, Ronaldo had done in June – the pattern of the game in Lima was similar to the World Cup qualifier in Belo Horizonte. Argentina played most of the football, weaving

Party wall...the Brazilians show their delight after beating Argentina in the Final

pretty patterns with their high-tempo pass-and-move game. But they were like a come-forward fighter without the knockout punch. They had nothing to match the power of Ronaldo and Kaka in Brazil's 3-1 World Cup win or Adriano and Luis Fabiano in Peru.

There can be no disputing that Brazil, world champions at senior, Under-20 and Under-17 levels, and now back on top in South America, are the kings of the global game. But it also appears that physical preparation is playing an increasingly important role in their successes, perhaps at the cost of traditional values. The World Youth Cup was won with headers from corners, and as Brazil's players grow taller, route one will become a more frequently travelled road.

Ticker-tape reception...Brazil celebrate

It will be fascinating to see what conclusions are drawn by Brazil's management team once the Copa America euphoria dies away. Carlos Alberto Parreira is a coach who has always emphasised the importance of possession. His legendary assistant, Mario Zagallo, consistently calls on coaches to stress art over strength. But it is Argentina in these two most recent games who have had the possession and the fantasy, and Brazil who have been strong and efficient. Are the victories enough? Or do Parreira and Zagallo secretly worry that Brazilian football might be losing its identity?

Even so, there was plenty to admire about the winning team. They consistently scored important goals at vital moments, too frequently to write it off as luck. Rather, it is proof of character and immense self-belief. At the last Copa America, when Brazil were behind they could hardly wait for the referee's whistle so they could get off the pitch. The 2004 team were made of stronger stuff.

Goalkeeper Julio Cesar was a symbol of their capacity to rise to the occasion. He made an awful start to the semi-final against Uruguay, which Brazil won 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw, but pulled himself together and came up big when it mattered. He performed well in both the semi-final and Final shoot-outs, and his save from Luis Gonzalez in the first half against Argentina stopped them from taking complete control.

Brazil have shown their strength in depth in the build-up to Germany 2006, but there were disappointments at the Copa. Six years after playmaker Alex's debut there are still doubts about whether he can impose himself at the highest level. Young Argentinian midfielder Javier Mascherano hardly let him near the ball in the Final. The use of Dudu Cearense in the holding role earlier in the competition was not a success either. Parreira hoped his passing skills would help get attacking moves going, but the youngster was clearly uncomfortable with his defensive duties.

The disappointments – and even the title win – were eclipsed by the affirmation of Adriano. After years of near-total dependence on Ronaldo, Parreira can rest much easier in the knowledge that he has such an awesome alternative.

How Argentina would love a similarly potent source of goals. Perhaps they were missing the ability of Juan Veron to break up their short passes with the odd 40-yarder. Certainly they were missing a cutting edge to turn possession into penetration.

Some felt coach Marcelo Bielsa made a mistake by selecting an extra defender against Brazil. It seems unsubstantiated. Bielsa devoted the post-Final press conference to the theme that "4-3-1-2 is not the only way to play football". In an attacking team Bielsa sees little value in using conventional full-backs. His system is based on the fact that Javier Zanetti and Juan Pablo Sorin can push forward, allowing the wide players further forward the option of cutting inside. But with Brazil fielding two out-and-out strikers, only the introduction of an extra defender made this possible. The Argentina goal that nearly won the Cup illustrates his point. Zanetti crossed from the right, Sorin won the header and the ball fell for Delgado to volley in.

Right-winger Delgado is one of a number of talented players breaking through as Argentina rebuild. Holding midfielder Mascherano is a wonderful prospect, and the versatile Luis Gonzalez was the team's most important player through the centre.

Then there is Carlos Tevez. Before the tournament the Boca Juniors starlet had made just two appearances for his country. Now his slalom dribbles, rapid turns and free-kicks seem set to be a regular part of Argentina's attacking armoury.

Perhaps if Bielsa could relive the Final he would not have taken off Tevez with two minutes remaining. The introduction of another defender was not enough to stop Diego's cross falling at the feet of Adriano. If Argentina had been higher up the field they might have been able to practise the best defence against crosses – stopping them at source. And if the cross had not come in then Argentina would be building for the World Cup without the added pressure of not having won a senior title since 1993.

● *See pages 56-60 for the rest of the Copa America review.*

Paying the penalty...Argentina after their shoot-out defeat

'Physical preparation is playing an increasingly important role in Brazil's successes'

Bigger but not better

The expanded 16-team Asian Cup was marred by the Chinese fans' behaviour

MICHAEL CHURCH in Beijing

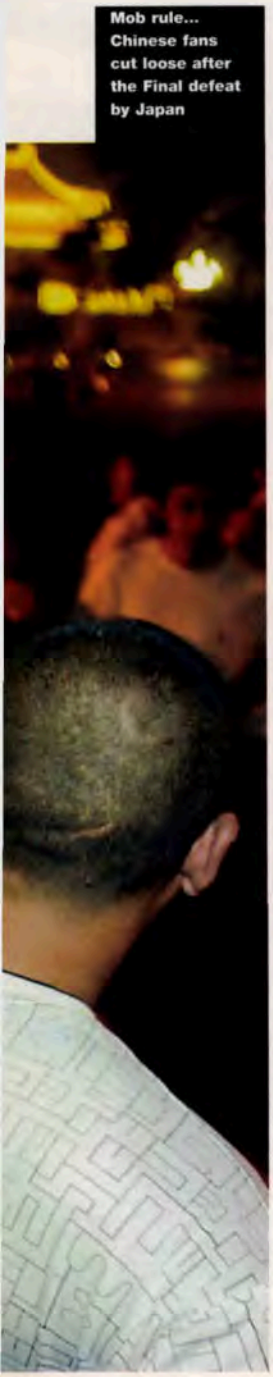
ON PAPER, IT WAS a dream Final; hosts China, home to the world's largest population and seen as the nation with the unrealised potential to be one of the game's leading lights, facing defending champions Japan, a nation that has spent much of the past decade leading the way in Asia.

In reality, by the time Japan had achieved their 3-1 victory, the feelings of animosity and spite had reached such proportions that football was almost of secondary importance, the Japanese government protesting to their Chinese counterparts over the way the Japan team had been treated during the tournament.

Throughout the three-week event – the biggest Asian Cup ever after the Asian Football Confederation decided to expand it from 12 to 16 teams – the reaction of Chinese fans to their guests from Japan left a bitter taste in the mouths of many.

The Japanese, despite the passing of close to six decades, remain pariahs in large parts of China due to the horrible atrocities committed up to and during the Second World War, when the imperialist regime occupied large swathes of the Chinese mainland.

One city that suffered particularly badly at the hands of Japan was Chongqing, where the AFC rather unwisely decided to send



Mob rule... Chinese fans cut loose after the Final defeat by Japan

Zico's men to play their group games. Right from the off, the team was barracked and verbally abused, the locals drowning out the national anthem in a cacophony of jeers. The Japanese, so often viewed by foreigners as a polite and respectful race, were outraged that their hosts should show such a lack of respect.

"It's disgusting the way they have treated our anthem," said defender Yuji Nakazawa. "We can't hear it so we can't sing it."

Decree ignored

By the time the teams walked out on to the pitch for the Final at the Beijing Workers' stadium, the Chinese government had issued a decree that fans show respect to the Japanese. Clearly it fell on deaf ears, the request roundly ignored as the People's Liberation Army band struck up a barely audible 'Kimigayo'.

When the game kicked off, however, it was China who looked more overawed and rattled by the occasion than the more experienced Japanese. Despite missing a plethora of stars, Japan still had players of the calibre of Reggina midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura, World Cup veteran Tsuneyasu Miyamoto and Denmark-based goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi to call upon for their third Asian Cup Final in four tournaments.

It was from a Nakamura free-kick that Japan took the lead midway through the first half. So often throughout the tournament the former Yokohama F Marinos player had been the key to unlocking opposing defences, and he did it again, floating the ball over for Takayuki Suzuki to head back across goal, where Takashi Fukunishi nodded home from close range.

Five minutes later the home crowd had something worthy to shout about as China drew level, Li Ming sweeping the ball in from just inside the penalty area after good work down the left by Yan Song. From there China looked the more likely to take the lead, Shao Jiayi and Zhao Junzhe both going close.

That all changed in the second half and, just to add to what was already a highly-charged atmosphere, Japan went ahead again with a disputed goal – Koji Nakata appeared to bundle the ball over the line with his hand following Nakamura's 66th-minute corner. The Chinese players protested vehemently but Kuwaiti referee Saad Al-Fadhli and his assistant were adamant there was no infringement and allowed the goal to stand.

Trailing 2-1 with 20 minutes to go and the 65,000 crowd on their back, China capitulated, underlining their reputation as a team incapable of handling pressure in high-profile games. It has been shown in the past time and again, but never in such an important game or under such extraordinary circumstances. As a result, Japan's killer third goal was a foregone conclusion, and when Keiji Tamada raced on to Nakamura's injury-time through ball and rounded Liu Yunfei, Zico could start to celebrate his first major title as a coach.

Champion...Japan's Tsuneyasu Miyamoto

"We have been booed from the very first match and today we were surrounded by over 60,000 Chinese supporters, but we played our own football," said the Brazilian. "That was a big achievement.

"Before we came here we had put on some very good performances in Japan but not outside. Now we can do that."

China coach Arie Haan, meanwhile, hardly covered himself in glory by refusing to accept his runners-up medal. The Dutchman was slated by AFC general secretary Peter Velappan – who had earlier been critical of Chinese fans after they booed officials during the opening ceremony – and was charged with bringing the game into disrepute after the confederation had issued both teams with a pre-game warning to avoid inflammatory gestures.

"I'm not disappointed about my team, I feel sorry to lose in the way that we did," said Haan. "The Final should have had, for us, another ending and not been decided the way it was. I didn't have the best view of Japan's second goal but even from where I was standing it looked handball."

Of greater concern to Haan, however, will be the manner in which his team quit and the way the fans turned on them after Nakata's controversial goal. China remains a young football nation, and with an immature fan base incapable of accepting defeat, the road to success could remain a long and arduous one.

'We've been booed from the very first match, but we've played our football'

Japan coach Zico

For Japan, Asia now seems to hold little challenge. Even with what amounted to a hybrid team made up of first and second-string players, they emerged with the trophy, an endorsement of the Japan Football Association's long-term development plan and the work being done on a weekly basis within the J.League.

More worryingly, though, Japan's victory also highlights the dearth of top-level talent at the Asian Cup. Bigger it may have been, but better it certainly wasn't.

● *See pages 72-73 for the rest of the Asian Cup review.*

Foreign bodies

MLS counts the cost of an international invasion as Chivas prepare to hit Los Angeles

PAUL GARDNER in New York

THE CANTANKEROUS, UNRULY world of international football has been making quite an impact on American soccer this year.

If MLS commissioner Don Garber ever had any faint thoughts that he could operate his League without the pesky foreigners butting in from time to time, he has surely been brutally disabused by this summer's events.

For starters, there's the loss of promising youngsters to Europe (see panel). Maybe, at the moment, it's only a minor irritant, but it's one that threatens to grow into a huge problem.

MLS puts a brave face on this talent drain. Deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis maintains that "we're developing new talent all the time". But the pipeline is hardly bursting with starlets. There is, too, the tendency for the boys to leave for Europe as soon as possible – which means at 18, the youngest age at which FIFA regulations allow them to switch to a foreign residence for football reasons.

Yes, two of the brighter young talents – Freddy Adu (15) and Danny Szetela (17) – have signed for MLS clubs. But in claiming that these boys "chose MLS over European offers", MLS is being less than straightforward, as both are under 18 and could not have moved overseas. But 17-year-old Jonathan Spector – who could move because his deal with Manchester United was signed before the FIFA regulation took effect – is already living in England.

Spector returned briefly to the USA in July as part of the United team that gave MLS another foreign-inspired headache this summer. They were part of a series of 11 games promoted by ChampionsWorld LLC. Also featured were Chelsea, Porto, Milan, Roma, Celtic, Galatasaray, Liverpool and Bayern Munich.

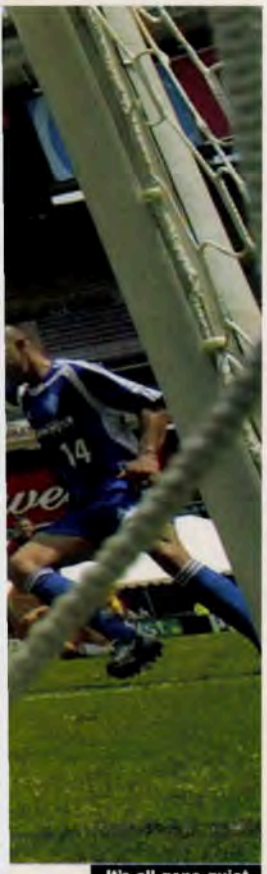
A virtual European invasion right in the middle of the MLS season. Yet again, Garber claimed to see a silver lining. "We've accepted that it's in the long-term interest of the sport," he said.

But short-term, it is obviously damaging. On the very day, at virtually the same hour, that MLS was playing its mid-season All-Star game in Washington DC, Manchester United were playing Milan in New York, which drew over 74,000 fans, while MLS could manage only 21,000.

Even so, Garber can afford a patronising smile. This year's ChampionsWorld tour has been much less successful than last year's debut. Crowds are down over 10,000 per game, which – given an average ticket price of around £30 – means an income loss of something like £3.5million. That's a heavy blow to ride when Manchester United – the main attraction of the tour – are being paid £700,000 for each of their three games.

Extraordinarily, the club themselves created one of the biggest problems for the promoters. For United's first game – against Bayern Munich – a crowd of over 58,000 packed Chicago's Soldier Field. What they saw was not to their liking, and at the final whistle the stadium echoed to loud boos. A vapid 0-0 draw was bad enough, but what really inflamed the fans – who'd paid anything between £30 and £100 for their tickets – was the team United fielded. Roy Keane was the only first-team player on view. The rest were reserves, and they included, for a full 90 minutes, teenager Spector.

"Certain players were unavailable," was Alex Ferguson's explanation but that will not have helped the credibility of either



It's all gone quiet ...the MLS All-Star game in Washington DC is played to a background of empty seats

the club or the promoters, making it much more difficult to obtain high advance sales for future tours. The possibility of another Euro-junket next year has been put in doubt, particularly as United have already announced they will be touring the Far East instead of the USA.

Real disappointment

MLS has also had its own problems with visiting European teams. That MLS All-Star game, for instance. MLS had the rather good idea that it should be MLS All-Stars v Real Madrid. The fixture was duly arranged – and then had to be cancelled when Real's domestic season collapsed in May, and the club cut down on their off-season travelling. A consolation was offered – the All-Stars would travel to Spain and play against Real in the Bernabeu in October. That, too, has been cancelled, as it clashed with CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers.

There remains one further meeting of MLS and the outside world, this one long-sought by MLS – the arrival of a Mexican owner-operator. Jorge Vergara, who owns CD Guadalajara – popularly known as Chivas – in Mexico and Saprissa in Costa Rica, is now installed in MLS and will run a new club, Chivas-USA. This is part of a two-team MLS expansion for the 2005 season (the other will be in Salt Lake City), bringing the League up to 12 clubs.

Chivas-USA really will bring something different to MLS. Apart from foreign ownership, there will be passion and noise. The press conference at the Home Depot stadium in Los Angeles, home of existing MLS club Galaxy, was attended by over 300 Chivas fans, dressed in their traditional red-and-white-striped shirts, complete with a mariachi band, streamers, confetti and raucous chants of "Chivas! Chivas!"

It's safe to say that no MLS announcement in the past nine years has had such a lively background. Smiling at all the fans, Vergara commented, in Spanish: "The peace and quiet is over, right?"

Vergara, a millionaire who made his money selling nutritional supplements, is given to expansive statements. He promised: "This is more like a brotherhood than a franchise. We're bringing our traditions, we're going to field a competitive team – we'll be champions, I have no doubts."

Of course, there has been opposition to the MLS move to allow foreigners in. Almost since the first hints of Mexican involvement, there have been rumours that Chivas would be granted concessions, that they would be allowed to field a full team of imported Mexican players.

One of the Chivas traditions – maybe the club's most endearing to their Mexican fans – is that they have never used foreign players. MLS regulations, however, allow only three senior (over-25) foreigners – i.e. non-Americans.

But there are loopholes – younger players and resident-aliens (so-called green-card holders) do not count against that limit. And Vergara has vowed to beat the bushes throughout the United States for US-born players of Mexican descent, saying: "We're looking for new blood in the United States that is talented and speaks Spanish."

The rumours of concessions have been repeatedly and forcefully denied by MLS, and Vergara has frequently insisted he will stick to MLS rules. But the rumours persist – surely a sign that, for whatever reason, plenty of people do not want a Mexican, or a Hispanic-oriented club, in MLS.

A more serious objection is that Chivas-USA would be run merely as a farm team for the parent team in Guadalajara – an accusation Vergara has dismissed.

Finding a city in which Chivas could play also caused some problems. Clearly, Vergara made an early decision that Los Angeles was the place to be. It was a no-brainer, really: census figures show 45 per cent of Los Angeles County's 9.8 million inhabitants are of Mexican origin – the highest concentration of Mexicans anywhere in the world outside Mexico City. And soccer wisdom has it that wherever there are Mexican fans, 40 per cent will support Chivas.

The difficulty was that MLS already had a team in Los Angeles, playing in the Home Depot stadium: Galaxy. MLS tried to tempt Vergara into settling his Chivas-USA in Chicago, or San Diego, or Houston. No dice. Vergara wanted Los Angeles. In the end he got his way – by paying a rumoured £10m compensation to Galaxy. That was on top of the £6m payable to MLS as his expansion fee.

On the face of it, Galaxy are delighted. General manager Doug Hamilton welcomed the new club as creating the first "local derby" in MLS history. But there are those who feel that the arrival of Chivas – with their ready-made fan base in the area – means Galaxy will inevitably be the area's less important team. Against that is the argument that the Mexican community also contains plenty of anti-Chivas fans, who would now want to become Galaxy fans.

In November MLS will hold an expansion draft for which each of the current 10 teams will have to submit the names of a few 'unprotected' players, who will then be liable to be drafted by either Chivas or Salt Lake.

Chivas-USA have announced that two veteran Mexican national team players – Ramon Ramirez and Francisco Palencia – will be part of the team. And Vergara's business partner, Antonio Cue, will be moving to Los Angeles to run the team.

The tricky bit may well be finding a coach. He will have to be Spanish-speaking, and, according to Chivas executive president Ivar Sisniega, "will be someone who has coached here in the United States, who knows the sport here".

Looking beyond the ifs, buts and maybes, one thing looks pretty certain – in 2005 Chivas-USA will create more excitement and more commotion than any MLS team have so far managed in the League's nine-year history.

Off to Holland...DaMarcus Beasley

● This summer has seen two of MLS's most exciting young Americans whisked off to join European clubs. DC United's Bobby Convey (21) has joined Reading in England, while Chicago's DaMarcus Beasley (22) is now with PSV Eindhoven. San Jose's Landon Donovan (22) – arguably the best American-bred player of all time – may be the next to defect.

'This is more like a brotherhood. We're bringing our own traditions – and we'll be the champions'

Jorge Vergara, owner of prospective new MLS club Chivas-USA

The homecoming

Keir Radnedge listens to the plans of the new Real Madrid coach

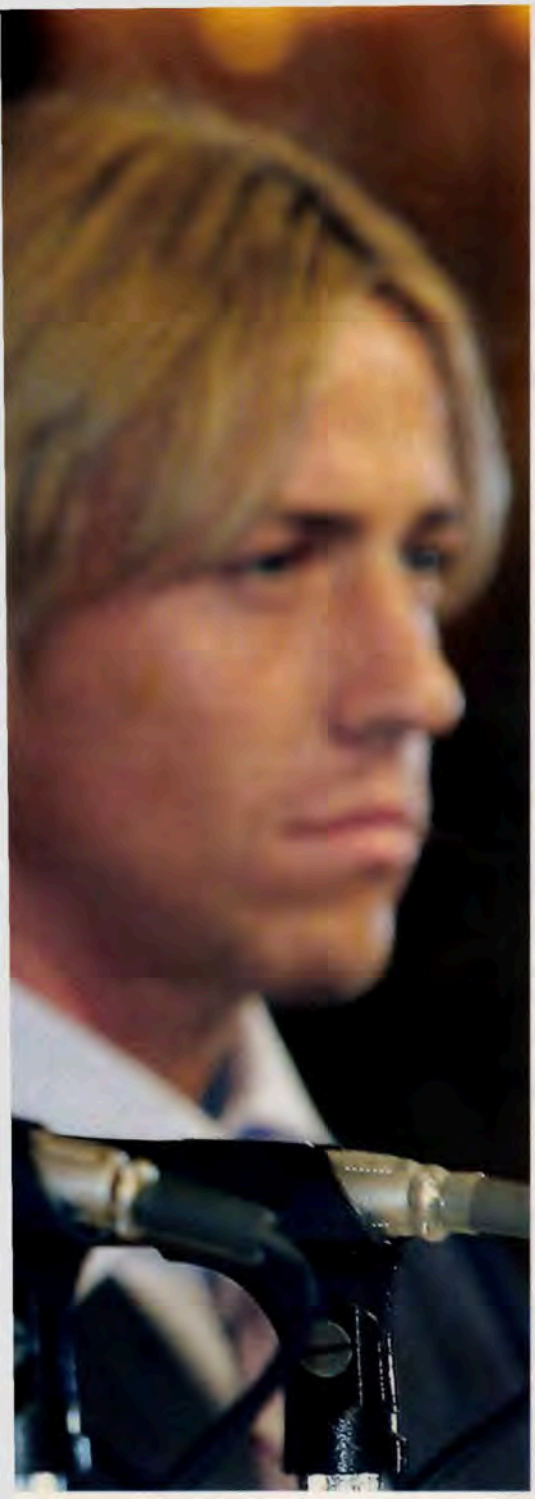
JOSE ANTONIO CAMACHO has returned to his native Spain as the new coach of Real Madrid. But it has been a strange homecoming for the former international defender, recently at the helm of Benfica, who is charged with reviving morale and team discipline after the disappointments of last term.

Madrid claim to be the most famous club in the world and president Florentino Perez believes that, within a year, they will also have overtaken Manchester United and become the richest, in marketing terms. But the image of a club is not only shirts, flags and keyrings. The most important factor is success out on the pitch in terms of trophies.

Real Madrid failed to lay their hands on a single one in 2003-04, despite the massive transfer fee and wages investments in so-called *galacticos* such as Raul, Roberto Carlos, Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and David Beckham.

The team's failure inevitably led to the firing of Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz, who has returned to the job he left to join Madrid 14 months ago, as assistant manager at Manchester United.

The consensus within Spanish football was that Madrid needed a down-to-earth disciplinarian, a pragmatist who would not be afraid to bruise a few egos in his quest for success. Perez believes Camacho is that man. Certainly, he displayed all those qualities as a player for Madrid and Spain back in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He was quick, tough and ruthless, and he has maintained



'I have been successful everywhere I've coached. Now my challenge is to make the Real job the pinnacle of my career'

that image in a coaching career that has included taking Spain to the 2002 World Cup finals.

Indeed, Camacho has wasted no time laying down his law at Real. He has put a limit on the number of times a player may absent himself to fulfil promotional engagements, and also banned the use of mobile phones for large parts of the day.

"I expect everyone to concentrate all their efforts and all their focus on winning matches for Real Madrid," says Camacho. "Our fans expect it."

This is Camacho's second spell as Madrid coach, though the first lasted only three weeks back in the summer of 1998. He had made his name with Rayo Vallecano, Espanyol and Sevilla, from whom he was lured away by then Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz. But Camacho's insistence on total control and on appointing his own coaching staff met with opposition. He quit after 23 days.

The job has grown harder in the succeeding six years. Perez has turned around Madrid's finances but the price is even greater pressure on coaches and players.

Camacho is not intimidated. He says: "It's a great feeling to be back, like coming home. I came into this club originally as a boy and I left, after my playing career, as a man. But that was almost 20 years ago. Many things have changed in those years. The team gets a much greater projection in the media than in those days. The club stood still for a while, but now, once again, Real Madrid sets the standards for world football – and I intend to make sure we continue to do that."

Demanding commitment

Camacho makes no apology for demanding of his players the same commitment he will give. "Any coach must set the highest standards for his players, to get the best out of them," he says. "But it's also important the players understand everything is geared to helping them be the best. I think I have been successful everywhere I have coached. Now my challenge is to make the Real Madrid job the pinnacle of my career."

Camacho knows he was a popular choice with the Madrid fans but he has no illusion about the reasons. This had nothing to do, he believes, with his popularity as a player. He says: "I have always been, at heart, a 'Madridista', but I don't think that's why the fans wanted me. I think it was because they appreciated the sort of man I am and the way I work. They believe I can make the team successful – the president and his board of directors think the same. I am here because I am a professional and because I have the qualifications. Sentiment has nothing to do with it."

Now 49, Camacho joined Madrid as an 18-year-old from lower division Albacete in 1973. He never played for any other club after that, totalling 579 competitive games. He won the League nine times, the Cup four times and the UEFA Cup twice.

The targets have not changed, though the value of success has exploded with the advent of multi-million sponsorship, television income and the sports marketing revolution. With that in mind, Camacho has been far more forceful than Queiroz was in laying down his transfer market demands. The priority was a top-class central defender followed by a hard worker in midfield. Camacho has the first already, in Argentina's Walter Samuel, and was battling to purchase Patrick Vieira from Arsenal to fulfil the other role as we went to press.

"Samuel is going to be a terrific signing – just the man we need," says Camacho. "The fact that he was a first-choice at clubs like Boca Juniors and Roma as well as for Argentina says everything about his ability."

Certainly, a change of direction is essential. Camacho says: "Five months ago Real Madrid were the envy of all the world but then the team lost too many games. But not everything was wrong. The team had reached the Final of the Spanish Cup and the quarter-finals of the Champions League, and for months were top of the Spanish League. You don't achieve all that for no reason. You don't become bad overnight. That's why I wanted all the players to have a good holiday. I wanted them back in training refreshed, with last season washed out of their minds. Now we are starting all over again, only this time we have not only to get into those good positions but stay there."

The means by which Camacho expects to see Madrid do that are typical of the man. He says: "I want us to concentrate on the essence of football. When we have the ball we play good football and when we lose the ball we work hard both to defend and to win the ball back. I want to see the senior players using all their ability the way they can when they are fresh.

"Ronaldo, Beckham and Zidane, for example, are outstanding footballers. But they are also attacking players and depend on the rest of the team. How will they get the ball otherwise?"

Tackling, fetching and carrying are the roles left vacant for the brightest and hungriest of Madrid's own products from the senior youth team (the *cantera*). Perez had labelled the balance of superstars and kids as the policy of 'Pavons and Zidanes' – after the young home-grown central defender and the French playmaker. But Camacho is not prepared to follow his president all the way down that road, as the diplomatic dances around Vieira and Real Sociedad's Xabi Alonso have proved.

Earn your place

Camacho says: "The players from the *cantera* are, for me, a resource not a necessity. Just because they are from our own youth section does not guarantee them a place in the first team. If they show they are good enough to earn a chance, then they will get a chance. What they do with it is up to them."

Egos and theories must all bow to the greater good of the club – and to Camacho's ambition. He has set a high standard, saying: "I want to win all our matches. But you do that only by winning one match at a time. If I can get the players to focus on the immediate target every time we go out to play then I think we will become very difficult to beat.

"As for our priorities, those are winning both the League and the Champions League. But I also intend that we win the Spanish Cup as well. As I said, every time we go out to play we will be going out to win."

Football is indeed a strange game when such a statement is considered entirely logical.

Keir Radnedge **COMMENTARY**

Another fine mess

The fiasco over the England coach leaves the Football Association leaderless and struggling for credibility

ENGLAND HAS ALMOST 2.5 million registered footballers. You may double that to calculate the number who play the game officially and unofficially, formally and informally. A mere 3,000 play in the top four professional divisions.

And yet it is that minuscule 0.12 per cent of players whose existence commands the lion's share of the financial power of the English game.

This is why, depressingly, no solution exists to the crisis that has engulfed the Football Association in the wake of Svengate. The entire structure is impossible, its divisions irreconcilable.

However, this is the best there is, and the only remedy will be through the quality of personnel with a vision for all the English game not its various self-centred parts. Such men appear thin on the ground, to say the least. Thus the present state of chaos is an accident that had been waiting to happen.

For most of its existence since its creation in 1863 the FA was in the controlling grip of the amateur game – the 'blazers' of the overblown and unwieldy FA Council. Professional football existed uneasily within the FA in practical terms but mutual suspicion was typified by the preference of the Football League's long-serving general secretary, Alan Hardaker, to maintain his headquarters up in Lytham St Anne's.

Thus the two bodies that ran football in England were not merely polarised financially and politically but also geographically.

'The entire FA structure is impossible and its divisions irreconcilable'

Foreign visitors could never understand the duopoly. Just about everywhere else in the world the professional league was run directly from within the federation and knew its place in the greater scheme of things.

The opportunity for England to catch up with the rest of the world came with the First Division breakaway at the start of the 1990s. The then big five – Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham and Everton – had been pushing hard for a redistribution of wealth. The first concession made by the Football League was to permit home clubs to keep all their match receipts instead of sharing some of the largesse with the visitors.

At a stroke this increased the financial power of the big five and weakened 'small ground' clubs such as Coventry and Wimbledon, especially at a time when the conversion to capacity-reduced all-seater stadia was being imposed after the disasters of Bradford, Heysel and Hillsborough.

Concession No 2 was in acceding to the big clubs' breakaway in 1992, with which the FA, led by general secretary Graham Kelly, connived. The FA's trump card was guaranteeing official recognition for the big clubs and thus entry into European competition. But the FA's worst mistake was not to impose stringent controls on the workings and powers of the new FA Premier League. Frankenstein had created his monster, and the monster ran out of control from the start.

The Premier League is often viewed from abroad as a miracle born of restructuring. It was not – it was a wonderfully successful marketing exercise timed, fortuitously, to capitalise on the satellite television and sport sponsorship explosions.

In effect, the Premier League proved a cuckoo in the FA nest, soon throwing its financial weight around. The FA took the opportunity of Kelly's departure – after an ill-judged plot to replace Scotland's David Will with then FA chairman Keith Wiseman on the FIFA executive – to play catch-up. Thus headhunters were employed to find a

Cashing in...FA secretary Faria Alam and publicist Max Clifford at a photo shoot

Xenophobia rules...a 'John Bull' lookalike demonstrates outside FA headquarters as the Svengate controversy rumbles on

chief executive for the modern age: they came up with Adam Crozier from Saatchi and Saatchi.

Crozier arrived at Lancaster Gate in February 2000 and did just what he was recruited to do. He updated the FA's image by moving its offices to Soho Square, launched a string of expansionist development programmes for the grassroots game and went head-to-head with the Premier League to raise the sponsorship cash to fund his schemes (which included the rebuilding of Wembley and the creation of the National Football Centre).

Crozier too good

But Crozier proved, if anything, too good at his job. The Premier League clubs grew restive when Crozier sought sponsor cash for the England team and players who were, according to the PL, the clubs' 'property'. Thus, while chairman Geoff Thompson was conveniently away on FIFA-UEFA business, Crozier was forced out.

That Crozier morphed so quickly and easily into head of the Post Office was apparent justification for critics who accused him of lacking the football-steeped sensitivities needed for the FA. Has the crisis grown deeper as a result of Crozier's changes or because of his departure? The jury is out.

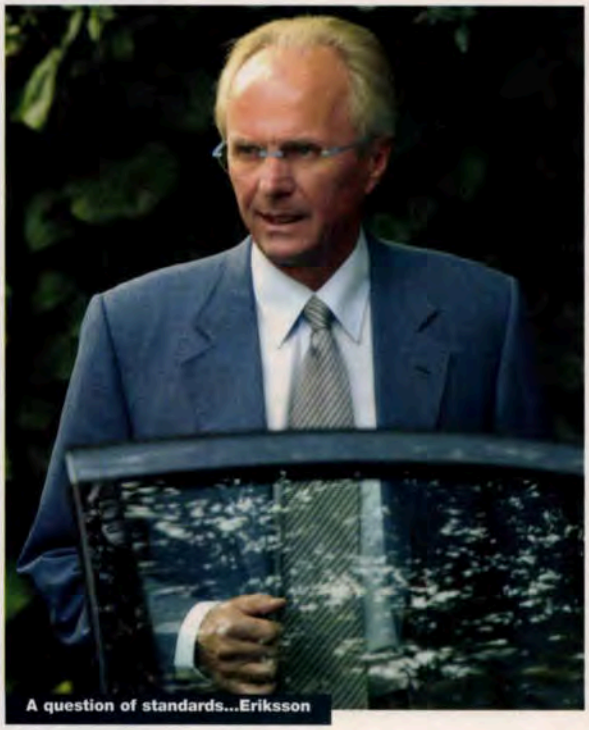
His replacement was Mark Palios, apparently an ideal choice with a background in professional football (as a midfielder with Tranmere and Crewe) and accountancy (with PricewaterhouseCoopers). Palios lacked confidence only in his communication skills and thus imported the FA's greatest critic, the head of sport at the *Daily Mail*, Colin Gibson.

Palios's main achievement was to make up for Crozier's judgemental errors over Wembley. But before Gibson had even come on board, Palios had been overtaken by a communications crisis that turned the PL clubs against him. The Rio Ferdinand affair was a PR disaster of the first order. The one time Palios did put his head above the parapet, over Alan Smith's controversial call-up to the England squad and rejection on the same day, he was shot down in media flames.

England affairs would prove to be Palios's downfall. He was praised, initially, for moving decisively to force Sven Goran Eriksson into extending his contract as manager rather than run off to Chelsea. Only later did the media realise that, by comparison with other national coaches, Eriksson was being paid way over the odds at £4 million a year.

The focus moved off the FA and on to the England team for Euro 2004. But tabloid revelations, first of Eriksson's affair with Faria Alam, a secretary to FA executive director David Davies, and then of Palios's own brief involvement with her switched the spotlight away from David Beckham's penalty blunders and back on to the FA.

In Eriksson's case the moral issue split two ways. On the one hand he was a single man with a right to a personal life without compromising his England role; on the other he was, apparently, in a settled domestic partnership with Nancy Dell'Olio and thus betraying the moral standards demanded of a man in his particular job. You buy your paper and take your choice.



A question of standards...Eriksson

Face in the crowd ...Colin Gibson (above) watches the crucial David Beckham penalty miss against Portugal at Euro 2004. The FA director of communications' own day of destiny was to come

Palios could have survived revelations of his own involvement with Alam but for one catastrophic blunder: the attempt, via Gibson, to keep the relationship quiet by making a deal with the *News of the World*.

I, like many other journalists who have worked with Gibson in what we may still call 'Fleet Street' down the years, was amazed that he believed he could secure such a deal.

What remains unknown is to what extent he was acting under orders and/or feared for his own survival as director of communications. One day his own version will be published – though, of course, not for anything like the £500,000 deal that publicist Max Clifford struck for Alam.

The FA's bad luck was that Alam's story emerged in the middle of what the media calls the 'silly season', when there are no formal diary news stories from Parliament, local government or the High Court to distract attention. The FA was a sitting target, wallowing defenceless in becalmed waters with even its director of communications unable to communicate.

Only two statements emerged, both farcically wrong-headed. The first was chairman Thompson's premature attempt to 'exonerate' Palios; the second was Davies's public testimonial for Eriksson while a barrister-led internal inquiry into the farrago was under way.

Palios did the honourable thing and resigned. Gibson offered his subsequently-accepted resignation (the reason he could not resign instantly himself was that, with Palios gone, there was no one with the executive authority to accept it). Alam walked out, of her own media-enriched will.

The focus now switched to the inquiry into whether Eriksson had misled the FA, in the guise of the great survivor Davies, when Alam's story first hit the news-stands. Not that readers would have known that.

Eriksson's long-term critics came roaring out of the woodwork demanding that he be dismissed for being simultaneously overpaid and an underachiever.

Xenophobia ruled.

Vastly overpaid

Certainly Eriksson is vastly overpaid compared with other national coaches. But he has also steered England to the quarter-finals of two successive international competitions, which is more than any of his predecessors except Sir Alf Ramsey.

In those two competitions England lost first to outstanding ultimate winners in the 2002 World Cup (which, with hindsight, was no disgrace) and then on the lottery of penalties to the hosts at Euro 2004.

But Eriksson's record was not the issue, and in any case he was cleared of misconduct. This was a relief to the FA's bank manager, worried about finding a £14million pay-off.

Judgement Day for Eriksson is now every time England walk out to play because managing the team is the duty for which he is employed.

A good start to a World Cup qualifying campaign is always important. But the forthcoming visits to Vienna to play Austria and Chorzow to face Poland are about much more than getting points on the board. Eriksson's credibility is at stake as never before – as is the ability of the FA to resolve its structural and personnel problems out of the media glare.

The one may be resolved (in the short term, at least) more easily than the other.

'Eriksson's Judgement Day will now be every time England walk out to play'

The key players

Verdict...FA chairman Geoff Thompson (right) and board member Barry Bright leave the inquiry

Survivor...David Davies

Sven Goran Eriksson
England coach with a roving eye for the likes of Manchester United and Chelsea. Signed £4m-a-year extension last March. Inquiry ruled he had no case to answer over charge he misled the FA over relationship with Alam.

Mark Palios
Chief executive of the FA who was 'exonerated' from blame by chairman Geoff Thompson before revelations of the protectionist deal with the *News of the World* emerged. Involved briefly with Alam before Eriksson. Resigned.

Geoff Thompson
Almost-invisible FA chairman who might not have survived had he not held prized membership of UEFA's executive committee since July 2000. As it is he will have Dave Richards (professional game) and Roger Burden (grassroots) as minders.

Faria Alam
The 38-year-old secretary to FA executive director David Davies who had affairs with first Palios and then, immediately after Euro 2004, with Eriksson. Quit the FA and sold her story to two Sunday tabloid newspapers and a TV channel for £500,000.

David Davies
Executive director of the FA, nicknamed 'the great survivor' and one of the few senior staff who can remember working at Lancaster Gate. Responsible for international affairs (the footballing kind).

Colin Gibson
Former sports editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*. Appointed communications director last January, 'turned over' by the *News of the World* after trying to broker a 'sell-Eriksson-to-save-Palios' deal. Resigned.

Sir Trevor Brooking
Mysteriously-entitled director of football development at the FA since November 2003. The one high-profile FA figure to have avoided contamination by Svengate.

David Dein
Executive vice-chairman of Arsenal and vice-chairman of the FA with a vested interest in keeping Eriksson in his job – it prevents Soho Square approaching Arsenal's Arsene Wenger.

Trevor Birch
Former chief executive of wealthy Chelsea (pre-Kenyon), impecunious Leeds (post-Ridsdale) and divided Everton (for six pig-in-the-middle weeks). Early favourite to succeed Palios as chief executive.

Rupert Lowe
Southampton chairman and one of the four Premier League members of the FA board. Believes "the FA should be in charge of grassroots football and avoid getting involved in too many other things".

Dave Richards
Premier League chairman entrusted with 'minding' Thompson while believing his clubs should have more control over key FA activities such as the FA Cup and the England team.

Resigned...Mark Palios

Kiss and tell...Faria Alam spoke of her relationships with Eriksson and Palios

Meanwhile in Germany...

A desperate federation turn to Klinsmann

FIFTY YEARS AFTER the *Wunder von Bern* – the shock 1954 World Cup win – Germany's national team have slipped all the way back to square one, with the Deutscher Fussball-Bund in FA-like confusion. Indeed, the German crisis is deeper because it stems from footballing and not peripheral issues.

New coach Jurgen Klinsmann is a highly controversial choice to wave a magic wand and sort it all both on national and power-broking levels for embattled DFB president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder.

Critics point out that Klinsmann has no coaching experience. But the same criticism was levelled at Rudi Voller when he was appointed amid similar confusion four years ago and he did not do such a bad job.

Voller might have survived first round elimination at Euro 2004 but losing the last group match to a team of Czech reserves was too much for German pride. Voller quit the following day.

Suddenly, 'MV' found he had fashioned a noose for his own neck. Candidates to succeed Voller were thin on the ground. Assistant coach Michael Skibbe's credibility had gone with that of his boss; Jurgen Kohler had club ambitions; Uli Stielike had blundered with the Under-21s; Turkey-based Christoph Daum's public rehabilitation was not yet complete.

Winfried Schafer (Cameroon) was too much of a loose cannon, Guido Buchwald (Urawa Red Diamonds) too inexperienced and Berti Vogts (Scotland) still in international limbo. Public opinion was firmly set against 'going foreign' with Denmark's Morten Olsen, and the media howled in derision at talk of an approach to Dutchman Louis Van Gaal.

At home, Werder Bremen's League title-winning Thomas Schaaf lacked the necessary public profile. But there was Bayern Munich's newly-dismissed Ottmar Hitzfeld – experienced, respected and, most important, available. Before the European finals had ended it appeared a done deal. And then, out of the blue, Hitzfeld said no. He had promised his wife he would take a year out of football and it was a promise he had to keep.

MV was not only back to square one, but also he had become a laughing stock. His authority as DFB president, as World Cup 2006 organiser and as FIFA executive member were all at risk.

Desperate situations call for desperate solutions. The DFB set up a sub-committee to find a new coach. Hungary boss Lothar Matthaus, admired and despised in equal measure in German football, emerged as a new favourite. But he and MV have history. DFB general secretary Horst R Schmidt phoned Vogts for guidance and found him sunning himself at the California home of Klinsmann.

MV and Klinsmann go back a long way, to the late 1980s, when MV was Stuttgart president and Klinsmann his star player. Klinsmann rose in status and authority within the national team as MV rose through the DFB. It was almost too good to be true.

They agreed in principle over the phone and Klinsmann flew back to Germany. He arrived talking grandiosely of leading a 10-year root-and-branch revolution within German football and the DFB's national team structure. But he emerged from contract talks to say he had signed for just two years and would focus only on the senior national team.

The DFB recalled Holger Osieck for coaching support and named recently-retired forward Oliver Bierhoff to liaise between team and media and provide logistical assistance.

Comparative peace lasted for two days – then the media questioned Bierhoff's loyalty since he had just signed a new long-term personal contract with Nike while the DFB is inextricably nailed down with Adidas. Swiftly, Bierhoff and Nike suspended their contract until after the World Cup finals.

Then Klinsmann sat down to talk through his plans with Osieck, who listened patiently and then quit the job before he had even taken it up. "It's clear that we cannot work productively together," he said, "so it is better to say so now."

"I will lead training myself," said Klinsmann, despite a total lack of experience. He does, however, hold the DFB coaching licence, which permits him to work hands-on with his players.

'It's clear we can't work productively together, so it is better to say so now'

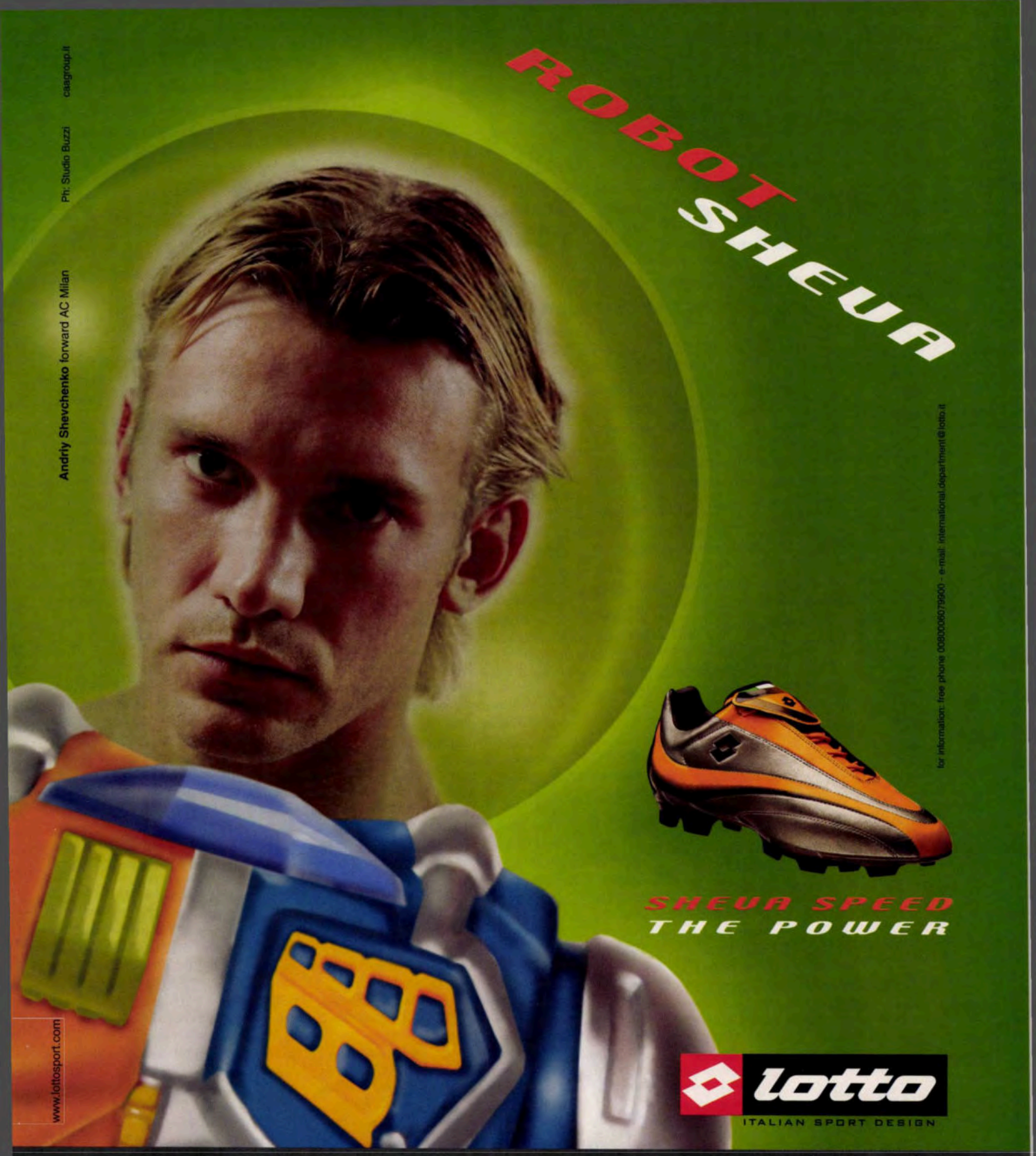
Klinsmann's prospective coaching aide Holger Osieck opts not to take the role

Matthaus has disparaged Klinsmann, questioning his competence, experience and his California home. "He says he will go back to the US every couple of weeks," said Matthaus, "but how can he do that when he has been out of the game for so long? He needs to be in Germany to watch every match he can."

Klinsmann's lack of coaching experience need not be an issue. Buchwald, another former team-mate, said: "He gets his players only for a few days a month and these are the best players in Germany – fit, talented and ready-made. He does not have to teach them anything. The only thing a national coach can do is make sure his players understand the tactics, work on set-pieces and believe in themselves.

"Klinsmann has never been short on self-confidence and his team can reflect the man."

Germany, and MV, certainly hope so.



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The ego has landed

The arrival of Jose Mourinho at Chelsea has added extra spice to this season's battle for the Premier League title. Gavin Hamilton reports

CONFIDENCE IS NEVER going to be a problem for new Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho. The former Porto boss had only been in England a matter of days when he compared himself to the Almighty. "If I wanted to be protected in a quiet job, I could have stayed at Porto," said Mourinho. "I would have been second after God in the eyes of the fans even if I had never won another thing. But I wanted to go for this challenge while I'm young, strong and fully motivated, not when I'm 60."

Mourinho went on to express supreme confidence in his own abilities by adding: "Obviously if I don't reach my goals, perhaps I will have to go home. But I don't think this will happen. I think that at the end of my contract, Chelsea will be interested in giving me a new one."

The stream of quotable opinions from Mourinho – not to mention the small matter of more than £90million spent by Chelsea this summer – has only added to the hype and expectation surrounding this season's Premier League campaign.

Chelsea's big spend

No club in Europe has come close to matching Chelsea's spending this summer. Although the signings of Petr Cech and Arjen Robben were sanctioned by outgoing coach Claudio Ranieri, the other buys all bear the stamp of Mourinho. He raided his former club for defenders Paulo Ferreira and Ricardo Carvalho for a combined total of £33m. They joined fellow Portuguese international Tiago, a midfielder, from Benfica. Finally, Mourinho brought in his own choice of attackers: Mateja Kezman for a relatively modest £5m from PSV, and Didier Drogba, a snip at £24m from Marseille.

The new signings have taken Roman Abramovich's spending on players to more than £200m in just over a year.

A number of big-name players have already been shipped out, notably Juan Sebastian Veron and Hernan Crespo, to Internazionale and Milan respectively. Abramovich reportedly blocked the loan deal of Adrian Mutu to Juventus because he did not want to see another high-profile player join a Champions League rival.

Many other players have been released by Chelsea, including Marcel Desailly and Emmanuel Petit. Only one departee actually commanded a transfer fee: Jesper Gronkjaer, who moved to Birmingham for £2.2m.

One of the first things Mourinho did upon arriving at Chelsea was to state that he wanted a squad of 24 players. But the number of new signings, not to mention the failure at time of writing to offload Mutu, has given him more than that.

Ranieri was criticised for his tinkering with the squad. While Mourinho is not expected to be as adventurous with his tactical manoeuvrings, he will still face the challenge of keeping all his highly-paid stars happy.

It will be fascinating to see how Mourinho – and the media – react to Chelsea's first slip-up. In Portugal, Mourinho made friends and enemies in equal numbers. In England, press opinion is far more likely to be uniform: if Chelsea mess up, criticism will be universal, and Mourinho will have few supporters.

The most crucial backing for Mourinho comes, of course, from Abramovich. As long as he has the support of Chelsea's owner, then he will remain in his job.

Mystery still surrounds Abramovich's motives for buying Chelsea in the first place. The political situation in Russia, where the oligarchs are under increasing pressure from President Putin's regime, is not something that will concern most Chelsea fans. But until Abramovich agrees to speak to the media, the speculation will intensify that his interest in Chelsea is purely financial.

As for Mourinho's relationship with other managers, he has already engaged in a war of words with Manchester United's Alex Ferguson, continuing a spat that dates back to Porto's defeat of United in last season's Champions League. When informed that Ferguson said money cannot guarantee success, Mourinho quickly snapped back that he agreed...as Porto had proved with their win over United. At least it makes a change from the verbal sparring between Ferguson and Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger.

In the past United have tended to do well in seasons that have followed Arsenal success. This time round they had a disappointing pre-season, and Ferguson has had to put a brave face on things. United faced a barrage of complaints from American fans for fielding understrength sides on their Stateside tour. Ferguson could do little about that, given that so many players were involved in the final stages of Euro 2004 and the Copa America. However, he surprised many people with his comment that United had not known that the Copa would be taking place when it did.

Olympics and injuries

In addition to the late arrivals at pre-season training, United's problems were compounded by the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo and new signing Gabriel Heinze on Olympic duty and injuries to a host of key players. Chief among the casualties was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, whose knee injury has put him out for the season and must surely now endanger the remaining years of his career.

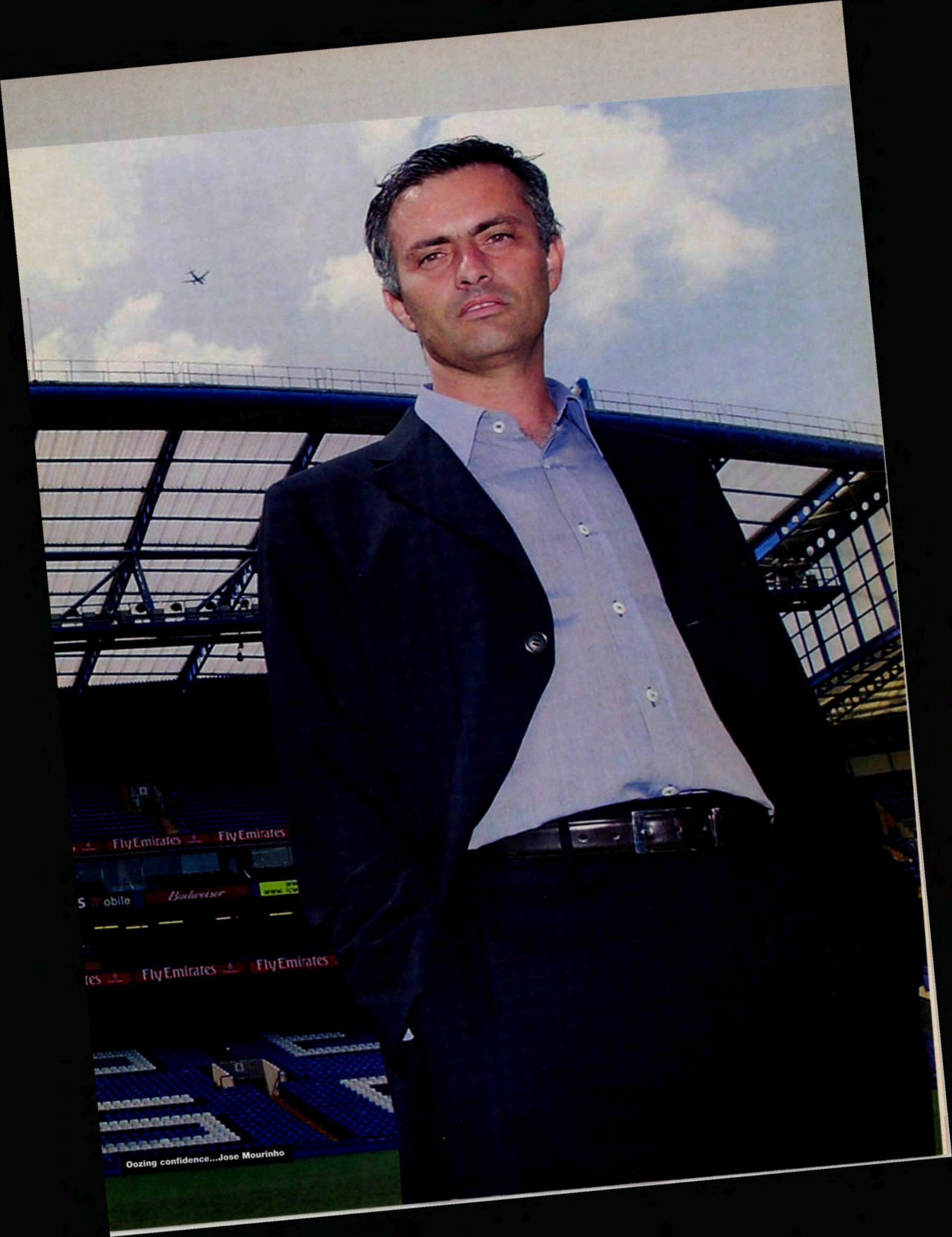
On the plus side United have made a number of decent signings, notably Irish midfielder Liam Miller, who has inevitably earned comparisons with Roy Keane. Alan Smith gives the attack an extra dimension, though his discipline remains questionable, while Heinze was one of the outstanding performers for Argentina at the Copa. United have retained an interest in signing Wayne Rooney, but have so far baulked at meeting Everton's wildly optimistic valuation of £50m.

Looming large over United's season is a possible takeover. American tycoon Malcolm Glazer has been slowly increasing his stake in United plc, and while doubts remain over his ability to mount a full takeover, his son has dropped hints that Rupert Murdoch could be encouraged to reignite his interest in buying into the club.

The speculation will not help Ferguson, who has often come into conflict with the business side of United. Last season, the Irish racehorse-owning duo John Magnier and J P McManus – the biggest single shareholders in United – forced the board to drop plans for a new contract for the manager, and instead offer Ferguson a rolling one-year deal.

The manager's remaining ambition is to win a second European Cup. Whether he will

'Criticism will be universal if Chelsea mess up, and Mourinho will have few supporters



Oozing confidence...Jose Mourinho

Still on board?...Patrick Vieira may not stay around to help Arsene Wenger and Arsenal defend their League title

Extra dimension...Man Utd's Alan Smith

Future in doubt...Michael Owen

be given time to achieve that by the board remains to be seen.

A depleted United side were beaten 3-1 by Arsenal in the Community Shield. The win was an early boost for the champions after a summer dominated by the prospect of captain Patrick Vieira moving to Real Madrid.

Vieira, who has been encouraged to move to Spain by his France team-mate Zinedine Zidane, has remained silent over the issue, but Wenger was adamant throughout that his captain, signed from Milan for £3.5m eight years ago, would not be leaving.

Inflating the price

However, Wenger made the same noises over Emmanuel Petit and Marc Overmars joining Barcelona and Nicolas Anelka going to Real Madrid, and they all transpired. Such tactics succeeded in bumping up the transfer fee and it appears to have worked again, with Madrid offering to pay more than £20m for Vieira.

Arsenal spent the money from previous sales well, but the sale of Vieira is different. The midfielder is closely associated with the Arsenal cause under Wenger, but he may feel that winning the European Cup, the only trophy he has not won, is beyond their reach.

The painful reality is that Arsenal can no longer compete with Chelsea and United's money. The same is true of Liverpool – hence the stories also linking Michael Owen with a move to Madrid.

That Liverpool would even contemplate the sale of Owen – at Anfield since the age of 11 – gives an indication of the changes sweeping through the club under new manager Rafael Benitez. The apparent willingness to part with Owen, as well as the sale of Danny Murphy to Charlton, has raised concerns that Liverpool could be losing the local heart of the side.

Elsewhere, Newcastle and Tottenham both had complicated managerial situations going into the start of the League campaign.

At Newcastle, Bobby Robson was told that this would be his last season in charge, to which he expressed disbelief; at Spurs, confusion reigns, with new French coach Jacques Santini yet to establish a rapport with Danish technical director Frank Arnesen, who has arrived from PSV. The presence of Dutchman Martin Jol, who was recommended by Arnesen, as Santini's assistant has added to the complications. That said, Spurs have made some decent buys in the transfer market.

One last thought is on the departure of Paolo Di Canio from English football. When the Italian, who has moved to Lazio from Charlton, pushed referee Paul Alcock when playing for Sheffield Wednesday, many thought that he had played his last game in England. Instead, he stayed, winning many friends along the way.

ARSENAL

Manager: Arsene Wenger
Key arrivals: Van Persie (Feyenoord), Flamini (Marseille), Almunia (Celta Vigo)
Key departures: Parlour (Middlesbrough), Keown (Leicester), Kanu (West Brom), Van Bronckhorst (Barcelona), Bentley (Norwich, loan), Jeffers (Charlton)
Prediction: So much depends on the form and fitness of French trio Thierry Henry, Robert Pires and Patrick Vieira (presuming he's still at Highbury at all). If they are on top of their game, Arsenal will again be contenders.

ASTON VILLA

Manager: David O'Leary
Key arrivals: C Cole (Chelsea, loan), Laursen (Milan), Drobny (Strasbourg)
Key departures: Crouch (Southampton), Kachloul, Johnsen, Dublin (all released)
Prediction: A repeat of last season's sixth place will be a major result.

BIRMINGHAM

Manager: Steve Bruce
Key arrivals: Gronkjaer (Chelsea), Gray (Crystal Palace), Izzet (Leicester), Heskey (Liverpool), Anderton (Tottenham), Melchiot (Chelsea)
Key departures: Hughes (Charlton), Purse (West Brom)
Prediction: One of the summer's big spenders and a European place is now within their sights.

BLACKBURN

Manager: Graeme Souness
Key arrivals: Matteo (Leeds), De Pedro (Sociedad), Dickov (Leicester)
Key departures: Cole (Fulham)
Prediction: Without more signings they may struggle to improve on last season's flirt with relegation.

BOLTON

Manager: Sam Allardyce
Key arrivals: Ben-Haim (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Hierro (unattached), Speed (Newcastle), Jaidi (Esperance), Ferdinand (Leicester), Bridges (Leeds)
Key departures: Charlton (Norwich), Frandsen (Wigan), Thome, Poole, Pezzarossi, Howey, Ba (all released)
Prediction: More wheeler-dealing by Allardyce, who performed miracles to achieve last season's eighth place. But Hierro's signing could be a mistake.

Dennis Rommedahl (Charlton)

CHARLTON

Manager: Alan Curbishley
Key arrivals: El Karkouri (PSG), Rommedahl (PSV), Hughes (Birmingham), Andersen (AB Copenhagen), Jeffers (Arsenal), Murphy (Liverpool)
Key departures: Jensen (Fulham), Di Canio (Lazio), Rufus (retired)
Prediction: Curbishley's canny summer signings suggest another top-10 finish, but they could miss Claus Jensen.

CHELSEA

Manager: Jose Mourinho
Key arrivals: Ricardo Carvalho (Porto), Tiago (Benfica), Drogba (Marseille), Kezman (PSV), Paulo Ferreira (Porto), Cech (Rennes), Robben (PSV)
Key departures: Zenden (Middlesbrough), Gronkjaer (Birmingham), Crespo (Milan, loan), Veron (Inter, loan), Melchiot (Birmingham), Hasselbaink (Middlesbrough), Desailly, Petit, Bogarde (all released)
Prediction: Nothing but the best will suffice for Roman Abramovich.

CRYSTAL PALACE

Manager: Iain Dowie
Key arrivals: Kolkka (Monchengladbach), Boyce (Luton), Speroni (Dundee), Hudson (Fulham), Kiraly (Hertha Berlin)
Key departures: Gray (Birmingham)
Prediction: Dowie will need all his motivational powers and innovative training techniques to keep last season's play-off winners up. Favourites to go straight back down, but they will fight for their lives.

EVERTON

Manager: David Moyes
Key arrivals: Cahill (Millwall), Bent (Ipswich)
Key departures: Radzinski (Fulham), Unsworth (Portsmouth), Gerrard (Nottingham Forest), Nyarko, Simonsen, Gemmill (all released)
Prediction: Desperate times ahead, with or without the sale of Wayne Rooney.

FULHAM

Manager: Chris Coleman
Key arrivals: Diop (Lens), Radzinski (Everton), Jensen (Charlton), Cole (Blackburn), McKinlay (Leicester)
Key departures: Davis (Tottenham), Ouaddou (Rennes, loan), Harley, Hayles, Stolcers (all released), Inamoto (Gamba Osaka), Djetou (Parma)
Prediction: Coleman has spent well, the signing of Andy Cole aside, and another top-10 finish is quite possible.

LIVERPOOL

Manager: Rafael Benitez
Key arrivals: Josemi (Malaga), Cisse (Auxerre)
Key departures: Diarra (Lens, loan), Babbel (Stuttgart), Cheyrou (Marseille, loan), Heskey (Birmingham), Murphy (Charlton)
Prediction: All change at Anfield, but doubts remain over whether Benitez can establish his new regime and challenge the big three on domestic and European fronts.

MANCHESTER CITY

Manager: Kevin Keegan
Key arrivals: Mills (Leeds), De Vlieger (Willem II), Thatcher (Leicester)
Key departures: Vuoso (Santos Laguna), Tarnat (Hannover), Arason (Valerenga), Tiatto (released)
Prediction: Major problems ahead for Keegan, with rising debts and uninspiring summer signings. This year's Leeds?

MANCHESTER UNITED

Manager: Alex Ferguson
Key arrivals: Miller (Celtic), Pique (Barcelona), Heinze (PSG), Smith (Leeds)
Key departures: Butt (Newcastle), Stewart (Hearts, loan)
Prediction: Should finish in the top two but could again be distracted by Ferguson's hunt for a second European Cup.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Manager: Steve McLaren
Key arrivals: Zenden (Chelsea), Parlour (Arsenal), Hasselbaink (Chelsea), Viduka (Leeds), Reiziger (Barcelona)
Key departures: Greening (West Brom), Stockdale (Rotherham), Ricketts (Leeds)
Prediction: Big spenders again this summer in preparation for a European campaign. A top-six finish is the expectation from free-spending chairman Steve Gibson.

Patrick Kluivert (Newcastle)

NEWCASTLE

Manager: Bobby Robson
Key arrivals: Butt (Man Utd), Kluivert (Barcelona), Milner (Leeds)
Key departures: Hugo Viana (Sporting Lisbon, loan), Speed (Bolton), Lua Lua (Portsmouth), Griffin (Portsmouth)
Prediction: Big-name signings have engendered big expectations among the fans. But though Newcastle should go close, the fraught relationship between Robson and Alan Shearer could be the season's longest-running soap opera.

NORWICH

Manager: Nigel Worthington
Key arrivals: Helveg (Inter), Charlton (Bolton), Safri (Coventry), Bentley (Arsenal, loan)
Key departures: Rivers (released)
Prediction: Division One champions but their friendly reputation will count for little in the hard-nosed Premiership. Likely to struggle.

PORTSMOUTH

Manager: Harry Redknapp
Key arrivals: Unsworth (Everton), Lua Lua (Newcastle), Ashdown (Reading), Griffin (Newcastle)
Key departures: Sheringham (West Ham), Sherwood (released)
Prediction: Summer signings appear insufficient to keep Pompey up for a second year running.

SOUTHAMPTON

Manager: Paul Sturrock
Key arrivals: Nilsson (Halmstads), Crouch (Aston Villa), Van Damme (Ajax)
Key departures: Delgado (released)
Prediction: Sturrock should carry on where Gordon Strachan left off, especially if James Beattie stays.

TOTTENHAM

Manager: Jacques Santini
Key arrivals: Edman (Heerenveen), Pedro Mendes (Porto), Davis (Fulham), Robinson (Leeds), Naybet (Deportivo)
Key departures: Helder Postiga (Porto), Anderton (Birmingham), Ziege, Poyet (both released)
Prediction: If they can sort out who does what, the new management team could spring the surprise of the season.

WEST BROM

Manager: Gary Megson
Key arrivals: Gera (Ferencvaros), Kanu (Arsenal), Greening (Middlesbrough), Purse (Birmingham), Albrechtsen (FC Copenhagen)
Key departures: Facey (Hull)
Prediction: The most likely of the promoted teams to stay up, having spent wisely this summer.

FRANCE

Lyon line up trouble

The big-name exodus from the champions is a cause for concern, says Nick Bidwell

Hard act to follow...Lyon may find it difficult to retain the title

HAS OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS' president Jean-Michel Aulas taken his eye off the ball? That is the question being asked following the flight of big-name players from the French champions.

Aulas and his management team would probably have escaped serious criticism if the summer sales had been confined to Swiss central defender Patrick Muller, Belgian right-back Eric Deflandre and French international midfielders Vikash Dhorasoo and Eric Carriere. But what initially looked like sensible pruning began to take on the appearance of a cull when Brazilian libero Edmilson and France striker Peguy Luyindula were lured away by Barcelona and Marseille respectively just 10 days before the start of the new campaign.

Bonjour public relations disaster. Aulas could argue that the £5.3million he received for Edmilson and £8m for Luyindula far exceeded their value, that it was pointless keeping players who wanted to leave, and that the recruitment of Sochaux front-man Pierre-Alain Frau and Lille centre-back Eric Abidal was ample compensation.

However, in the eyes of many Lyon fans, two good arrivals and half a dozen top-line departures hardly constituted progress. There was also a widely-held view that Aulas would have sold other stars – notably Brazilian playmaker Juninho and attacker Sidney Govou – if the right money had been put on the table.

Aulas' achievements

Aulas, Lyon's president since 1987, has achieved an enormous amount in his time there, turning a debt-ridden outfit into a flourishing financial enterprise, transforming the antiquated Stade Gerland into a modern, comfortable arena, and assembling enough playing talent to win the French title for the past three seasons. However, there are growing numbers of detractors, who believe he has gone too far in his desire to run OL like any other business.

In the world of Aulas, say his critics, economic and commercial considerations routinely take precedence over matters sporting. Players are regarded as employees, fans as customers and coaches as administrators on temporary assignments.

The accusation is that the Lyon president has lost sight of the football in his football club, that he is concerned far less with team strengthening than calling on the government to allow clubs to quote on the stock market, demanding more tax breaks for football and overseeing Lyon's growing range of franchises: the OL hairdressers, OL beauty salon, OL cafes, OL drinks, OL travel agents, OL taxis and OL driving school.

Could it be that Monsieur Aulas has taken a wrong turn? Time will tell.

'What first appeared to be sensible pruning at Lyon began to look like a cull'

AJACCIO

Coach: Dominique Bijotat
Key arrivals: Andre Luiz (Fluminense), Chapuis (Marseille, loan), Gaspar (Gil Vicente), Marcelinho Carioca (Vasco da Gama), Marcelo (America, Mex)
Key departures: Bagayoko (Nantes), Danjou (Caen), Regragui (Santander)
Prediction: The Corsicans surpassed all expectations by dodging the drop last term but a paper-thin squad and the loss of their best striker (Mamadou Bagayoko) says they will not be so lucky this time around.

AUXERRE

Coach: Guy Roux
Key arrivals: Bolf (Banik Ostrava), Cheyrou (Lille), Ciani (Charleroi), Pieroni (Mouscron)
Key departures: Boumsong (Rangers), Cisse (Liverpool), Kapo (Juventus), Mexes (Roma), Perrier Doumbe (Rennes), Sirieix (Toulouse)
Prediction: Foreign raiders have ripped the heart out of the Burgundian club; a place in the top 10 would be some achievement.

BASTIA

Coach: Francois Ciccolini
Key arrivals: Andre (Guingamp), Kvarme (Real Sociedad), Sidibe (Monaco, loan), Vairelles (Rennes)
Key departures: Maurice (Istres), Mendy (Montpellier)
Prediction: New, unproven boss Ciccolini used to be a butcher; Bastia could well be dead meat by May.

BORDEAUX

Coach: Michel Pavon
Key arrivals: Kapsis (AEK Athens), Laslandes (Nice), Meriem (Marseille), Rool (Lens)
Key departures: Alicarte (Servette), Caneira (Valencia, loan), Deivid (Santos, loan), Costa (Marseille)
Prediction: With ambition and money scarce, a mid-table spot is the best this once-great club can aspire to.

CAEN

Coach: Patrick Remy
Key arrivals: Danjou (Ajaccio), Dufer (Charleroi), Dugardein (Mouscron), Faye (Gent)
Key departures: Dumas (retired)
Prediction: Signing journeymen from

New faces at Lens

Belgium is unlikely to keep the newly-promoted Normans in Ligue 1.

ISTRES

Coach: Mehmet Bazdarevic
Key arrivals: Diagne-Faye (Lens, loan), Maurice (Bastia), Riou (Montpellier), Saveljic (Guingamp)
Key departures: Gravelaine (Sion), Leonardo (Servette), Remy (Rouen)
Prediction: The club's stadium was not ready for the season start; the same applies to the team of the top-flight debutants, say sceptics.

LENS

Coach: Joel Muller
Key arrivals: Carriere (Lyon), Cubilier (Monaco), Gillet (Nantes), Leroy (Guingamp)
Key departures: Diop (Fulham), Camara (Saint-Etienne), Diagne-Faye (Istres), Moreira (Toulouse), Rool (Bordeaux), Song (Galatasaray)
Prediction: New signing Eric Carriere speaks of helping Lens qualify for the Champions League – a triumph of fantasy over logic.

LILLE

Coach: Claude Puel
Key arrivals: Angbwa (Nacional Montevideo, loan), Audel (Nice), Sylva (Monaco), Vitakic (Red Star Belgrade)
Key departures: Abidal (Lyon), Cheyrou (Auxerre), Delpierre (Stuttgart), Sterjovski (Basle), Tapia (Cruzeiro), Wimbee (Metz)
Prediction: The mass exodus of talent could spell a relegation battle.

LYON

Coach: Paul Le Guen
Key arrivals: Abidal (Lille), Frau (Sochaux)
Key departures: Carriere (Lens), Deflandre (Standard Liege), Delmotte (Reims), Dhorasoo (Milan), Edmilson (Barcelona), Luyindula (Marseille), Muller (Mallorca)
Prediction: A club like Lyon should be buying not selling. Thoughts of a fourth straight title are fading.

MARSEILLE

Coach: Jose Anigo
Key arrivals: Bamogo (Montpellier), Cheyrou (Liverpool, loan), Costa (Bordeaux), Dehu (PSG), Lizarazu (Bayern Munich), Luyindula (Lyon), Pedretti (Sochaux)
Key departures: Dos Santos (Benfica), Drogba (Chelsea), Fernandao (Internacional), Flamini (Arsenal), Johansen (Strasbourg,

Mohamed Kallon (Monaco)

loan), Vachousek (Austria Wien, loan), Van Buyten (Hamburg)
Prediction: Must be title contenders having spent wisely the big bucks received for Didier Drogba.

METZ

Coach: Jean Fernandez
Key arrivals: Avezac (Toulouse), Tum (Basle), Wimbee (Lille)
Key departures: Frutos (Chateauroux, loan), Jager (Le Havre), Moreno (Deportivo Cali, loan), Thiaw (Alaves)
Prediction: Metz have a clutch of promising young players but must improve home form in order to avoid being sucked into a relegation battle.

MONACO

Coach: Didier Deschamps
Key arrivals: Chevanton (Lecce), Kallon (Internazionale), Maicon (Cruzeiro), Modesto (Cagliari), Perez (Penarol)
Key departures: Cisse (PSG), Morientes (Real Madrid), Giuly (Barcelona), Ibarra (Porto), Prso (Rangers), Rothen (PSG), Sylva (Lille)
Prediction: Deschamps will earn his corn if he can keep Monaco competitive after losing so many stars.

NANTES

Coach: Loic Amisse
Key arrivals: Bagayoko (Ajaccio), Bratu (Galatasaray), Caceres (Olimpia), Viveros (Boavista), Yapi (Beveren)
Key departures: Armand (PSG), Ateba (PSG), Gillet (Lens), Moldovan (Servette), Vahirua (Nice), Yepes (PSG)
Prediction: Half the first team have moved on; hard times ahead.

NICE

Coach: Gernot Rohr
Key arrivals: Agali (Schalke), Fauconnier (Le Havre), Linz (Austria Wien, loan), Vahirua (Nantes)
Key departures: Audel (Lille), Everson (Benfica), Laslandes (Bordeaux), Pitau (Sochaux)
Prediction: German boss Rohr has worked wonders on a shoestring budget but mid-table is as high as the Eagles will fly.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

Coach: Vahid Halilhodzic
Key arrivals: Armand (Nantes), Ateba (Nantes), Rothen (Monaco), Yepes (Nantes), Cisse (Monaco)
Key departures: Dehu (Marseille), El-Karkouri (Charlton), Heinze (Manchester United), Potillon (Sochaux), Sorin (Cruzeiro)
Prediction: Though key players have gone, Rothen's arrival is a big plus, and Halilhodzic can always produce a team worth more than the sum of the parts.

RENNES

Coach: Laszlo Boloni
Key arrivals: Adailton (Vitoria), Isaksson (Djurgardens), Perrier Doumbe (Auxerre)
Key departures: Arribage (Toulouse), Cech (Chelsea), Fleurquin (Cadiz), Piquionne (Saint-Etienne, loan), Vairelles (Bastia)
Prediction: The industrious Bretons should sit comfortably in mid-table, presuming striker Alex Frei does not suffer a Euro 2004 hangover.

SAINT-ETIENNE

Coach: Elie Baup
Key arrivals: Camara (Lens), Le Crom (Guingamp, loan), Le Tallec (Liverpool, loan), Piquionne (Rennes, loan), Zokora (Gent)
Key departures: Morestin (Brest), Quaye (Liberty Accra)
Prediction: The Second Division champions took a risk in firing respected coach Fred Antonetti at the end of last season but in ex-Bordeaux boss Baup they have recruited a fine successor. He should have no problems keeping them up.

SOCHAUX

Coach: Guy Lacombe
Key arrivals: Pitau (Nice), Lionel (PSG)
Key departures: Frau (Lyon), Pagis (Strasbourg), Pedretti (Marseille)
Prediction: Although the Peugeot-backed club still have a number of exciting youngsters, the sale of Pierre-Alain Frau and Benoit Pedretti has taken away their top gear.

STRASBOURG

Coach: Antoine Kombouare
Key arrivals: Boka (Beveren, loan), Johansen (Marseille, loan), Pagis (Sochaux), Vercoutre (Lyon, loan)
Key departures: Dorsin (Rosenborg), Drobny (Aston Villa, loan), Ehret (Anderlecht)
Prediction: Financial restraints mean they are happy just to survive; if the new attacking partnership of Mickael Pagis and Mamadou Niang clicks, they should have their wish.

TOULOUSE

Coach: Erick Mombaerts
Key arrivals: Arribage (Rennes), Dalmat (Inter), Moreira (Lens), Sirieix (Auxerre)
Key departures: Avezac (Metz), Faure (Guingamp)
Prediction: Club president Olivier Sadran hopes high-profile acquisitions Daniel Moreira and Stephane Dalmat will provide the impetus for a top-10 finish; it might be a little optimistic.

Mario Yepes (PSG)

GERMANY

Bank on Bayern

The big spenders in Munich have left their rivals trailing in the transfer stakes. Nick Bidwell reports

THESE MIGHT BE times of austerity for the vast majority of Bundesliga clubs, with scouts and general managers concentrating their efforts on bringing in free agents and loan players. But apparently no one has told the free-spending management at Bayern Munich.

Over the summer, they splashed out £17million on Leverkusen's Brazilian centre-back Lucio, German international midfielder Torsten Frings (Dortmund), Bochum's Iranian striker Vahid Hashemian and young 1860 Munich defender Andreas Gorlitz.

The contrast between Bayern and the rest could not be more marked. The Bavarians' transfer bill was twice what supposed big-hitters Werder Bremen, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Leverkusen and Hertha Berlin spent on new signings between them this summer. The only other outfit keen to invest in personnel were Hamburg, who paid a total of £6.6m for attackers Emile Mpenza and Benny Lauth, and stopper Daniel Van Buyten.

Bayern claim that their buys represent excellent value for money, and they have a point, especially in the case of Lucio. The Brazilian was rated in the £15m bracket just a year ago. But with the bottom dropping out of the market and Leverkusen looking to ease their financial problems, Bayern got their man for a little more than half that figure. Good business, indeed.

Open-door policy...Bayern's signings give new coach Felix Magath an even better squad to work with

'Lucio's speed and authority will surely cure Bayern's central defensive ills'

Central defence was a weak point for the Bavarians throughout last season, and Lucio's athleticism, speed and authority will surely provide the remedy. His shooting power from free-kicks and attacking adventure come as an added bonus, though new Bayern coach Felix Magath will no doubt tell him not to overdo the sorties beyond the halfway line.

The £6m for Frings should prove money well spent too. He can play at full-back, wing-back or sit in front of the back four, but is probably most effective when pushing forward from a central position. German coaches usually set great store by players who inspire those around them; Magath firmly believes Frings can develop into such a team leader.

Yet more riches

Although Gorlitz and Hashemian are lower in profile than Lucio and Frings, they have much to offer. The former, an Under-21 cap who was a snip at £1.6m, will probably fill in at right-back for Willy Sagnol, sidelined with a broken arm. Hashemian arrived for just £1.3m, tantamount to robbery given that he hit 16 goals for fifth-placed Bochum last term. He could well emerge as the best foil for Roy Makaay up front.

Frings' old club, Dortmund, can only look on enviously at the pulling power and economic wherewithal of Bayern. For the best part of the last decade, the *Dortmunder* have thought of themselves as the only genuine counterpoint to Bayern's dominance in Germany. However, failure to qualify for the Champions League this term and last, over-generous wage payouts and the cost of increasing the capacity of their magnificent Westfalenstadion have left them saddled with debts reported to be close to £75m.

So there has been no hope of Dortmund making any significant forays into the transfer market. Indeed, the order of the day has been savage wage cuts, reduced squad numbers and the sale of star players such as Frings.

He is unlikely to be the last. Thanks to a recent InterToto Cup loss to Belgian side Genk, Dortmund have kissed goodbye to some badly-needed UEFA Cup income. Should they receive decent offers for their most bankable assets – Czech internationals Tomas Rosicky and Jan Koller – they will listen.

ARMINIA BIELEFELD

Coach: Uwe Rapolder
Key arrivals: Buckley (Bochum), Duro (Rizespor), Maric (Karnten), Raducanu (Espanyol, loan)
Key departures: Benschneider (Koln), Sinisterra (Duisburg)
Prediction: Personified by all-action midfield dynamo Rudiger Kauf, the newly-promoted club will certainly not lack commitment, but a lack of strength in depth and individual class points to a return to the Second Division.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

Coach: Klaus Augenthaler
Key arrivals: Freier (Bochum), Krzynowek (Nurnberg), Roque Junior (Milan), Voronin (Koln)
Key departures: Basturk (Hertha), Lucio (Bayern), Neuville (Monchengladbach), Preuss (Bochum)
Prediction: If the Brazilian-Bulgarian strikeforce of Franca and Dimitar Berbatov show the same potency as last season, the Rhinelanders can envisage another top-three finish.

Torsten Frings (Bayern)

BAYERN MUNICH

Coach: Felix Magath
Key arrivals: Frings (Dortmund), Lucio (Leverkusen), Gorlitz (1860 Munich), Hashemian (Bochum)
Key departures: Lizarazu (Marseille), Misimovic (Bochum)
Prediction: Obvious favourites. The best squad, four excellent signings and a new, hard-line coach to keep the egos in check.

BOCHUM

Coach: Peter Neururer
Key arrivals: Bechmann (Esbjerg), Knavs (Kaiserslautern), Lokvenc (Kaiserslautern), Misimovic (Bayern), Preuss (Leverkusen)
Key departures: Freier (Leverkusen), Fahrenhorst (Werder), Hashemian (Bayern)
Prediction: A remarkable fifth last term, the Ruhr outfit have surely lost too much talent this summer to maintain such high standards.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Coach: Bert Van Marwijk
Key arrivals: Klinge (Koln, loan return), Oliseh (Bochum, loan return)
Key departures: Frings (Bayern), Flavio Conceicao (Galatasaray), Reuter (retired)
Prediction: Strong in the attacking third (Tomas Rosicky, Jan Koller and Ewerthon) but weak at the back and in goal, the cash-strapped 2002 champions could be in for another below-par campaign.

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

Coach: Holger Fach
Key arrivals: Fukal (Hamburg), Ivic (Partizan Belgrade), Neuville (Leverkusen), Van Kerckhoven (Schalke), Ziege (Tottenham), Ruben (Real Madrid, loan)
Key departures: Kolkka (Crystal Palace), Ojigwe (1860 Munich), Van Lent (Eintracht Frankfurt)
Prediction: Some good buys, plus fast-improving young Czech attacker Vaclav Sverkos, should turn Gladbach from relegation candidates into a mid-table side.

FREIBURG

Coach: Volker Finke
Key arrivals: Dorn (unattached)
Key departures: Guie-Mien (Koln), Zeyer (retired)
Prediction: Freiburg always play attractive, attacking football but a porous defence and chronic inability to win away may drag them into the relegation zone.

HAMBURG

Coach: Klaus Toppmoller
Key arrivals: Van Buyten (Marseille), Lauth (1860 Munich), Mpenza (Standard Liege)
Key departures: Fukal (Monchengladbach), Hollerbach (retired), Hoogma (Heracles), Ujfalusi (Fiorentina)

Daniel Van Buyten (Hamburg)

Prediction: Hopes of European qualification will largely depend on their new strikeforce of Benny Lauth and Emile Mpenza; both have a tendency to blow hot and cold.

HANNOVER

Coach: Ewald Lienen
Key arrivals: Barnetta (Leverkusen, loan), Enke (Barcelona), Ricardo Sousa (Boavista), Tarnat (Manchester City), Wallner (Rapid Wien)
Key departures: Brdaric (Wolfsburg), Konstantinidis (Koln), Ziegler (Austria Wien)
Prediction: A strong defence built around promising young centre-back Per Mertesacker and a crafty, industrious midfield quintet could make them a surprise package.

HANSA ROSTOCK

Coach: Juri Schlunz
Key arrivals: Lapaczinski (Hertha), Rasmussen (Nordsjaelland)
Key departures: Max (retired), Plassnegger (Grazer AK)
Prediction: Although the retirement of top scorer Martin Max has left a huge void, Hansa's great organisation and fluid attacking style should enable them to survive in the Bundesliga for a 10th straight year.

HERTHA BERLIN

Coach: Falko Gotz
Key arrivals: Basturk (Leverkusen), Gilberto (Sao Caetano)
Key departures: Goor (Feyenoord), Lapaczinski (Hansa Rostock)
Prediction: There should be no repeat of last season's relegation jitters but the lack of a proven goalscorer will prove a hindrance in their quest to claim a berth in European competition.

KAISERSLAUTERN

Coach: Kurt Jara
Key arrivals: Amanatidis (Eintracht Frankfurt), Engelhardt (Karlsruhe), Hertzsch (Eintracht Frankfurt), Jancker (Udinese), Nerlinger (Rangers), Seitz (Schalke)
Key departures: Klose (Werder), Knavs (Bochum), Lincoln (Schalke), Lokvenc (Bochum)
Prediction: A third straight season of underachievement may be on the cards; too many new signings – Ioannis Amanatidis and Marco Engelhardt excepted – are past their prime.

MAINZ

Coach: Jurgen Klopp
Key arrivals: Casey (Karlsruhe), Noveski (Erzgebirge Aue), Jovanovic (Dynamo Dresden)

Mike Hanke & Ailton (Schalke)

Key departures: Thurk (Energie Cottbus)
Prediction: All 13,000 season tickets were snapped in hours for the club's first-ever Bundesliga campaign, but fans should enjoy it while it lasts.

NURNBERG

Coach: Wolfgang Wolf
Key arrivals: Daun (Werder), Hajto (Schalke), Ketelaer (Monchengladbach), Schroth (1860 Munich)
Key departures: Ciric (Kickers Offenbach), Kampa (Monchengladbach), Krzynowek (Leverkusen)
Prediction: Of the three promoted sides, the Second Division champions seem the best equipped to stay up, capable of upsetting many with their attacking style.

SCHALKE

Coach: Jupp Heynckes
Key arrivals: Ailton (Werder), Bordon (Stuttgart), Krstajic (Werder), Lincoln (Kaiserslautern)
Key departures: Hajto (Nurnberg), Seitz (Kaiserslautern), Van Kerckhoven (Monchengladbach)
Prediction: Despite some outstanding signings, they are still two or three top-class players short of a title challenge, especially in midfield.

STUTTGART

Coach: Matthias Sammer
Key arrivals: Babbel (Liverpool), Delpierre (Lille), Stranzl (1860 Munich)
Key departures: Bordon (Schalke)
Prediction: This young team is full of talent and vitality but how much will they miss the guiding hand of coach Felix Magath, now at Bayern?

WERDER BREMEN

Coach: Thomas Schaaf
Key arrivals: Fahrenhorst (Bochum), Gustavo Nery (Sao Paulo), Jensen (Murcia), Klose (Kaiserslautern), Pasanen (Ajax)
Key departures: Ailton (Schalke), Daun (Nurnberg), Krstajic (Schalke)
Prediction: The jury remains out on whether new striker Miroslav Klose can score goals in the same quantity as Ailton. Still, at least a top-four finish seems on the cards.

WOLFSBURG

Coach: Eric Gerets
Key arrivals: Brdaric (Hannover), Hofland (PSV), Hristov (Kaiserslautern), Quiroga (Sporting Lisbon)
Key departures: Baiano (Flamengo, loan), Quattrocchi (Veracruz)
Prediction: Could gain a UEFA Cup berth if Argentinian playmaker Andres D'Alessandro plays to his potential.

Miroslav Klose (Werder)

Debt and buried

Napoli's collapse is a reminder that Italian football is still in the midst of an economic crisis. Paddy Agnew reports

AS ITALIAN SOCCER prepares for the new season, hoping to leave the disappointments of Euro 2004 and last season's Champions League far behind, it would be nice to report that a new wind of change is blowing through the peninsula. But it's not possible.

Yet again, the Italian footballing summer has been marked by financial crisis with the collapse of Napoli, the country's fourth most supported club and with an estimated six million fans around the world. Napoli, some £50million in debt, officially went into liquidation following the deliberations of a Naples bankruptcy court on August 2.

For the 78-year-old club, one that will for ever be associated with the genius of Diego Maradona, this was a new low point in a 15-year steady decline. To be frank, Napoli have been on an ever-slippier slope almost from the April 1991 day that Maradona ran away from both Naples and Italian football in the wake of his positive test for cocaine.

Gone for good?

However, the final chapter in the Napoli story is a long way from being written. The bankruptcy court's ruling not only declared the club to be officially liquidated but also its judgement would appear to block the way for the football federation's purpose-designed escape clause, the infamous 'Lodo Petrucci'.

This piece of creative rule-making by the federation basically allows for a liquidated club to be reborn, under new management, in a lower division and without having to inherit the debts left behind by the old management. But the Naples bankruptcy court argues that such a solution could cheat creditors by denying them not only monies owed but also the one thing of value left to Napoli, namely their 'sporting title' or, in this case, their place in Serie B (Napoli finished last season joint 13th with Vicenza, well clear of the relegation zone).

If I add that Luciano Gaucci of Perugia and Catania fame is the power behind one of four new groups hoping to inherit the Napoli title/name (but not the debts), then readers familiar with Italian soccer will know all too well that we are in for a long, hot August while the issue is argued through Naples' bankruptcy and appeals courts. It may be premature to say as much but experience would suggest that a solution, perhaps of a legally creative variety, will be found whereby Napoli remain on the football map, probably in Serie C, when September comes around.

While the Napoli crash served as yet another reminder of the economic crisis afflicting Italian football (how many do we need?), not everyone is despondent as we wait for the curtain to rise on the new season on September 12. Newly-appointed Italy coach Marcello Lippi has been making positive noises as he tries to drum up a sense of urgency about Italy's 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign;

"Right from the first training session for the first friendly, the players had better get one thing clear: that we're beginning a new cycle with one precise objective – namely to win the 2006 World Cup. There are no half measures," Lippi told *Gazzetta Dello Sport* in early August.

That first friendly was scheduled for August 18, against Iceland in Reykjavik, while the World Cup campaign gets under way with a home tie against Norway in Palermo on September 4, followed by a game away to Moldova four days later. Lippi has already indicated the path he may take when suggesting that Under-21 players such as striker Alberto Gilardino (Parma), defender Daniele Bonera (Parma) and midfielders Giampiero Pinzi (Udinese) and Daniele De Rossi (Roma) will all be immediately drafted into the senior squad.

Lippi has also suggested he will not be tied to any preconceived tactical notions, changing format and formations as the need arises. His main concern, he argues, is to generate a sense of "honour, pleasure and enthusiasm" within the Italy camp.

Don't blame the foreigners

With honesty, too, Lippi has immediately rejected the cliched notion that the large number of foreign players in Italian football is a prime cause for poor results at World Cup and European Championship level. He points out that the fact the majority of foreign imports are strikers has not stopped Italy developing a strong hand of attacking talent, including such players as Gilardino, Francesco Totti, Alex Del Piero, Antonio Cassano, Filippo Inzaghi, Christian Vieri and Fabrizio Miccoli.

As for Serie A, Lippi is in a unique position to judge the forthcoming campaign having won the championship five times. He points to three teams as the main contenders, saying: "Milan, Juventus and Inter are the favourites. But you'd have to put Milan on the front row of the grid. They have got better, they've developed a winning mentality and they've strengthened themselves in the transfer market. They're the side to beat.

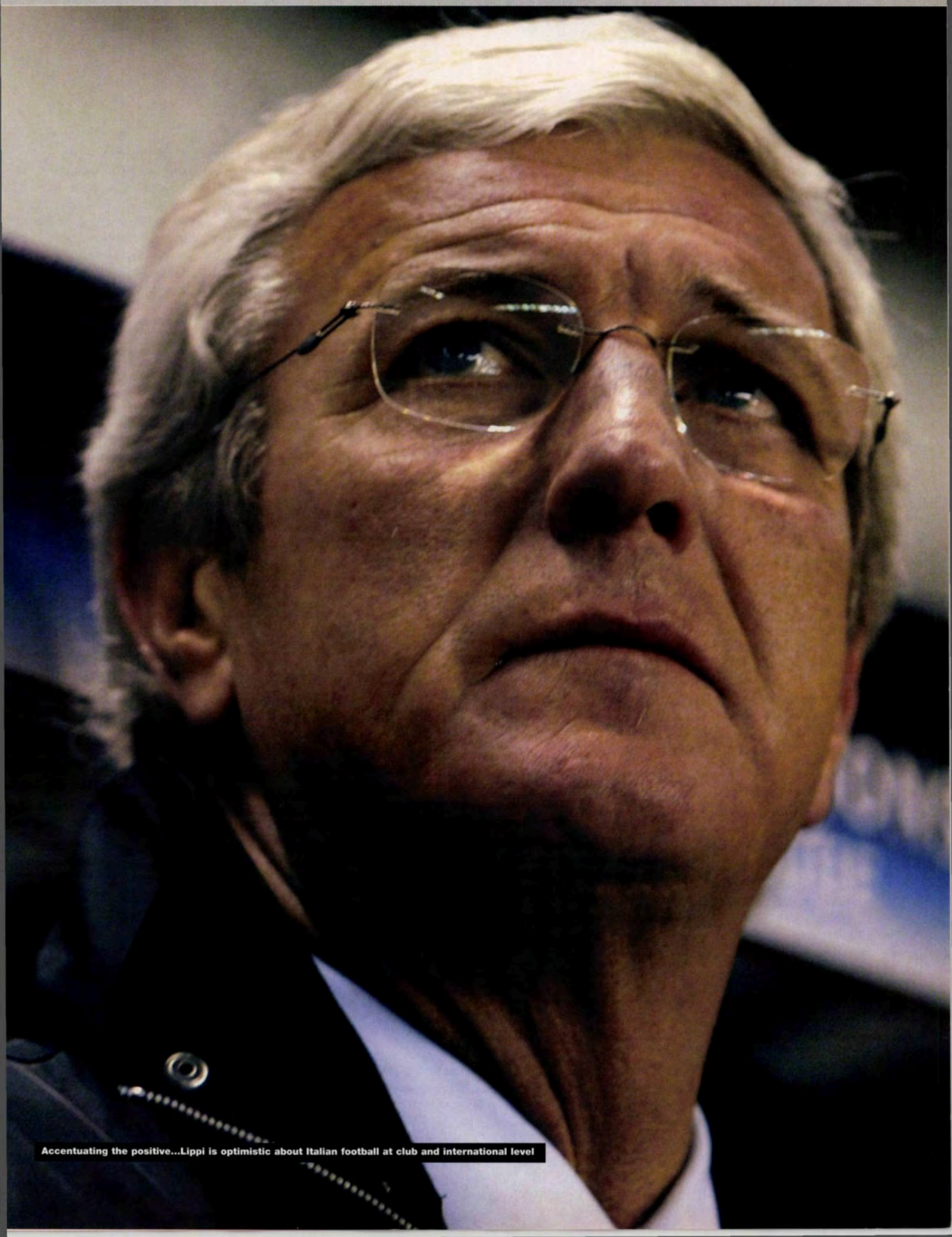
"Inter look like a very, very strong side, while [recently-appointed coach Roberto] Mancini has brought them a whole new burst of enthusiasm."

What about his old club, Juventus?

"I opted to leave when the time came. Some of the players simply needed another boss, a different stimulus, someone like [Fabio] Capello. But the basic squad is very strong, very solid."

Continuing on his positive note, Lippi believes that the new season will be marked by a revival of the traditional club and national team powers of European football, Italy included. He says: "You can forget the last edition of the Champions League, the surprise finalists. It was a strange season. The key players failed to deliver and that situation was repeated at Euro 2004, where Germany, France, Italy, Spain and England surprisingly all went out. That won't happen again. Real Madrid, Manchester United, Arsenal and our clubs, they'll all be back this season. The big names are on the way back."

'Napoli have been on the slide ever since Maradona left after his positive drugs test'



Accentuating the positive...Lippi is optimistic about Italian football at club and international level

ITALY TEAM BY TEAM

ATALANTA

Coach: Andrea Mandorlini
Key arrivals: Albertini (Lazio), Rossini (Bologna)
Key departures: none
Prediction: Back in Serie A after a season down below, the yo-yo club will as ever be concentrating solely on guaranteeing survival. Coach Mandorlini is new to Serie A but he can count on the experience of midfielders Demetrio Albertini and Alex Pinardi, and strikers Gianni Commandini and Fausto Rossini.

BOLOGNA

Coach: Carlo Mazzone
Key arrivals: Zagorakis (AEK Athens), Giunti (Besiktas), Cipriani (Sampdoria)
Key departures: Signori (retired), Nakata (Fiorentina), Guglielminpietro (Boca Juniors)
Prediction: Coach Mazzone, 67, remains at the helm of a side strengthened by the arrival of Euro 2004-winning captain Theo Zagorakis but weakened by the retirement of striker Beppe Signori. Bologna can expect a better showing than last season, when Mazzone was controversially appointed just before the campaign began.

BRESCIA

Coach: Gianni De Biasi
Key arrivals: Manninger (Bologna), Sculli (Chievo), Zambrella (Servette)
Key departures: Baggio (retired), Brighi (Juventus), Matuzalem (Shakhtar Donetsk)
Prediction: Is there life after Baggio? Striker Giuseppe Sculli and schemer Simone Del Nero, both Under-21 European champions, and 18-year-old Fabrizio Zambrella will hope to fill the void left by the departure (retirement?) of the Little Prince.

CAGLIARI

Coach: Daniele Arrigoni
Key arrivals: Katergiannakis (Olympiakos)
Key departures: none
Prediction: Back in Serie A after four years, Cagliari received a mid-summer boost when Sardinia's most famous footballing son, 38-year-old Gianfranco Zola, decided to delay his anticipated retirement. However, he and Serie A debutant coach Arrigoni will have their work cut out to keep Cagliari away from the drop, since the squad looks weak.

CHIEVO

Coach: Mario Beretta
Key arrivals: Brighi (Roma), Marazzina (Modena)
Key departures: Barzagli (Palermo), Perrotta (Roma), Sculli (Brescia), Santana (Palermo)
Prediction: The 'Flying Donkeys' finally came down to earth last season, and prospects do not look much better this year. Serie A debutant coach Beretta replaces Gigi Del Neri (Porto, briefly), the architect of the rise and rise of Chievo. International midfielder Simone Perrotta has gone to Roma in a deal that involved Matteo Brighi moving to Chievo.

FIORENTINA

Coach: Emiliano Mondonico
Key arrivals: Guigou (Siena), Nakata (Parma), Lupatelli (Roma), Maresca (Juventus), Portillo (Real Madrid, loan), Ujfalusi (Hamburg)
Key departures: none
Prediction: Following a marathon 48-match season and a play-off with Perugia, Fiorentina are back in Serie A after just two seasons in the lower divisions – not bad for a club that collapsed in summer 2002. With experienced coach Mondonico in charge and a reinforced squad, they could challenge for a UEFA Cup place.

INTERNAZIONALE

Coach: Roberto Mancini
Key arrivals: Coach Mancini (Lazio), Burdisso (Boca Juniors), Cambiasso (Real Madrid),

Juan Veron (Inter)

Choutos (Olympiakos), Davids (Barcelona), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Veron (Chelsea, loan), Ze Maria (Perugia)
Key departures: Brechet (Real Sociedad), Helveg (Norwich), Kallon (Monaco), Okan (Besiktas)
Prediction: Despite more than a decade of disappointment, Inter start out as ever with sky-high ambitions. All the more so following a summer in which the most significant of their many signings (is there no end to the Moratti millions?) may be that of former Lazio coach Mancini. With Adriano, Fabio Cannavaro, Obafemi Martins, Alvaro Recoba, Dejan Stankovic and Christian Vieri still on their books, Inter, on paper at least, could field two teams far superior to those of the majority of their Serie A rivals.

JUVENTUS

Coach: Fabio Capello
Key arrivals: Blasi (Parma, loan return), Emerson (Roma), Kapo (Auxerre), Zalayeta (Perugia, loan return), Zebina (Roma)
Key departures: Brighi (Roma)
Prediction: After a season of failure in Serie A and the Champions League, the Old Lady gave a clear indication of her competitive intentions when signing both coach Capello (to replace Marcello Lippi, now in charge of the national team) and Brazilian midfield general Emerson. More big names such as Czech Marek Jankulovski (Udinese) could be on the way. With such as Alessandro Del Piero, Pavel Nedved, David Trezeguet and Lilian Thuram having a post-Euro 2004 point to prove, Juventus are guaranteed to be in the fighting line right down to the finish. As seasonal objectives go, the Serie A title for once may be given higher priority than the Champions League.

LAZIO

Coach: Mimmo Caso
Key arrivals: Di Canio (Charlton), Pandev (Ancona), Manfredini (Perugia, loan return), Baggio (Ancona, loan return)
Key departures: Albertini (Atalanta), Corradi (Valencia), Favalli (Inter), Fiore (Valencia), Lopez (America, Mex, loan), Mihajlovic (Inter), Stam (Milan)
Prediction: Lazio's new boss, industrialist Claudio Lotito, says the club are in a state of "irreversible coma", with debts of £215million and annual losses of £100m. He should know, having spent £13m to take a 29 per cent shareholding in July. Not surprisingly, the club have had more departures (coach Roberto Mancini, Bernardo Corradi, Stefano Fiore, Jaap Stam) than arrivals,

Alex Del Piero (Juventus)

Goran Pandev (Lazio)

although Paolo Di Canio makes a welcome return from England. New coach Caso looks set for a tough time.

LECCE

Coach: Zdenek Zeman
Key arrivals: Diamoutene (Perugia, loan)
Key departures: Bolano (Parma, loan return), Bovo (Roma), Chevanton (Monaco), Tonetto (Sampdoria)
Prediction: Zeman, the ex-Lazio and Roma coach, makes a welcome return to Serie A after a period in the lower divisions that may have had something to do with his 1998 accusations of widespread doping practices in Italian football. He will do well to repeat last season's showing by Lecce, particularly after the departure of Uruguayan striker Ernesto Chevanton. Serie A survival will be a result.

LIVORNO

Coach: Franco Colomba
Key arrivals: Amelia (Parma, loan), Grandoni (Modena), Vargas (Empoli), Vidigal (Napoli)
Key departures: Lucarelli (Torino, loan return)
Prediction: Having waited 55 years for a return to Serie A, Livorno and their fans will not be short of enthusiasm. New coach Colomba knows all about maximising Serie A debutant potential, having done well with Reggina previously, but even he will have to work overtime with a largely inexperienced squad led by 38-year-old striker Igor Protti. Serie A survival will be the seasonal objective.

MESSINA

Coach: Bartolo Mutti
Key arrivals: Baiocco (Reggina), Donati (Sampdoria, loan), Eleftheropoulos (Olympiakos), Iliev (Partizan Belgrade), Yanagisawa (Sampdoria, loan), Zampagna (Ternana)
Key departures: none
Prediction: Having been absent from Serie A for 20 years, Sicily surprisingly has two representatives this season – Palermo and Messina. On paper, Messina look much the weaker of the two. Back in the top flight after a 39-year lapse, they will rely heavily on the experience of coach Mutti and striker Arturo Di Napoli.

MILAN

Coach: Carlo Ancelotti
Key arrivals: Crespo (Chelsea, loan), Dhorasoo (Lyon), Stam (Lazio)
Key departures: Borriello (Reggina, loan), Laursen (Aston Villa), Roque Junior (Leverkusen)
Prediction: The reigning champions have been relatively quiet in the transfer market but, given the strength of their existing squad, that hardly matters. Argentinian forward Hernan Crespo (Chelsea) and Dutch defender Jaap Stam

Hernan Crespo (Milan)

(Lazio) have joined, but they are far from guaranteed a starting berth. Other important players could yet arrive before the Serie A season starts, but it's likely that the Champions League will be priority No 1.

PALERMO

Coach: Francesco Guidolin
Key arrivals: Barone (Parma), Barzagli (Chievo), Farias (Estudiantes), Santana (Chievo, loan return), Zaccardo (Bologna)
Key departures: Andersson (Malmo), Maniero (Torino)
Prediction: Back in Serie A after a 31-year absence, Palermo set off with more lofty ambitions than mere survival in the top flight. The side that won promotion already had the look of Serie A quality about it. Coach Guidolin, the man behind Vicenza's good showing in both Europe and Serie A in the mid-1990s, can call on useful players such as strikers Luca Toni and Andrea Gasbarroni, and midfielders Eugenio Corini and Lamberto Zauli.

PARMA

Coach: Silvio Baldini
Key arrivals: Bovo (Lecce, loan), Junior (Siena, loan return), Sicignano (Lecce, loan return), Siviglia (Lecce, loan return)
Key departures: Amelia (Livorno, loan), Barone (Palermo), Blasi (Juventus, loan return), Ferrari (Roma)
Prediction: Like Lazio, Parma have been hit by a mini-exodus prompted by their financial problems, with such as Marco Amelia, Simone Barone, Manuele Blasi and Matteo Ferrari moving on. At press time, however, they had yet to decide the fate of their Under-21 European champion, striker Alberto Gilardino, arguably the hottest property in the Italian market this summer. In the end, he (and others such as defender Daniele Bonera and goalkeeper Sebastien Frey) are almost certain to move on (to Juventus or Roma), leaving new coach Baldini with a tough task in assembling a competitive UEFA Cup and Serie A side from a young squad.

REGGINA

Coach: Walter Mazzari
Key arrivals: Borriello (Milan, loan), Boudianski (Juventus, loan), Dionigi (Napoli), Esteves (Pacos Ferreira), Zamboni (Napoli)
Key departures: Cozza (Genoa), Di Michele (Udinese, loan return), Falsini (Parma, loan return), Jiranek (Moscow Spartak)
Prediction: Reggina will hope that their traditional blend of experienced journeymen and talented youngsters ('parked' by the big guns of Serie A) will once again be good enough to save them from the drop. Debutant Serie A coach Mazzari will need all the help he can get from such as Emiliano Bonazzoli, Giandomenico Mesto, Mozart and Shunsuke Nakamura.

ROMA

Coach: Cesare Prandelli
Key arrivals: Cufre (Siena, loan return), Ferrari (Parma), Mexes (Auxerre), Perrotta (Chievo)
Key departures: Bovo (Parma, loan), Emerson (Juventus), Lima (Lokomotiv Moscow), Samuel (Real Madrid), Zebina (Juventus)

Philippe Mexes (Roma)

Prediction: Even if Roma have lost two outstanding players in Argentinian defender Walter Samuel and Brazilian midfielder Emerson, the club have managed to hold on to their two most valuable players, standard bearer Francesco Totti and golden boy Antonio Cassano. New coach Prandelli, who took over from Juventus-bound Fabio Capello, has already stamped himself as among the very best in Italy, following two excellent seasons with Parma. With some interesting new arrivals, Prandelli and Roma could yet surprise their opponents in both Serie A and the Champions League.

SAMPDORIA

Coach: Walter Novellino
Key arrivals: Domizzi (Modena, loan return), Donadel (Parma, loan), Kutuzov (Avellino), Tonetto (Lecce)
Key departures: Conte (Messina, loan), Yanagisawa (Messina, loan)
Prediction: Sampdoria look very similar to the newly-promoted side that did so well last season, going close to winning a UEFA Cup place. Coach Novellino, strikers Francesco Flacchi and Fabio Bazzani, and midfield schemer Sergio Volpi should be good enough to ensure another mid-table finish.

SIENA

Coach: Gigi Simoni
Key arrivals: Falsini (Reggina, loan), Rasiak (Groclin), Zancope (Modena)
Key departures: Cufre (Roma, loan return), Guigou (Fiorentina), Junior (Parma, loan return), Lazetic (Como, loan return), Ventola (Inter, loan return)
Prediction: Although club officials and players are involved in the ongoing investigation into match-fixing, Siena hung on to their place in Serie A. But whatever the outcome of the judicial inquiries, the team will struggle to stay up for a second season given the departure of a number of experienced players. Coach Simoni, however, is nothing if not an old dog for the hard road.

UDINESE

Coach: Luciano Spalletti
Key arrivals: Di Michele (Reggina, loan return)
Key departures: Jancker (Kaiserslautern)
Prediction: Udinese were good value for their seventh-place finish last season, and with much the same squad in the hands of the same coach, Spalletti, they will again be competitive. They will certainly hope to do better in the UEFA Cup this season than last, when they went out in the first round to Salzburg.

Four more years

Florentino Perez was re-elected as Real Madrid president by a huge margin. Sid Lowe reports

IN THE END, it wasn't so much a landslide as an avalanche. The immense amount of time, money and increasingly heated words invested by Lorenzo Sanz and Arturo Baldasano proved worthless when Florentino Perez was re-elected as Real Madrid president for another four years with a staggering 91.64 per cent of the vote.

"Real Madrid's voice has been powerfully heard," said a triumphant Perez as the final results, far more conclusive than even he had anticipated, were announced.

Perez won an enormous 28,416 votes, compared to Sanz's 1,222 (3.94 per cent) and Baldasano's 513 (1.65 per cent), with 856 ballot papers blank or spoilt. His mandate was strengthened still further by the 31,007-strong turnout, the highest in the club's history.

The candidates had spent the final week of campaigning popping in and out of court, with both Baldasano and Sanz, Perez's predecessor as president, alleging electoral irregularities. Principally, they challenged the incumbent's collection of postal votes (Sanz narrowly lost the 2000 election on the back not only of Perez's promise to bring Luis Figo to Real Madrid, but also his masterful management of the postal vote). "These elections are being run like a banana republic," scoffed the ex-president.

Staggeringly, Real Madrid have no central, independent system to enable their *socios* (members) to cast a vote by proxy (all the more important with the election taking place in the summer, when many *Madridistas* are away from the capital). Instead, it is up to the candidates to collect their own postal votes on 'behalf' of those who cannot make it to Madrid for election Sunday. (If voters do subsequently turn up, their in-person vote overrides the postal one, allowing them to change their mind.)

Those postal votes could be collected at the candidate's electoral HQ, at jamborees and gimmicky giveaways, pre-election events and visits to *penas* (supporters' clubs), where members could postal vote *en bloc*, by filling in the requisite forms. Votes could be collected virtually anywhere, in fact – except at the club itself. And that was part of the problem.

Sanz alleged that, unchecked, Perez put undue pressure on potential voters and, in true persistent salesman fashion, made casting a postal vote simply part of the events he laid on, telling *socios* not to worry, they could always take it back later at the ballot box. It became, Sanz complained, a vote for a natty Madrid balloon or Zinedine Zidane's autograph. More significantly, there were accusations that Perez had begun to collect votes before the official opening of the election campaign.

'At the polls, Madrid fans ignored the team's collapse at the end of last season'

Sanz succeeded in taking the matter to court, which produced a judgement three days before the election that was worthy of Solomon. Perez was banned from collecting any more postal votes, but his existing votes – reckoned to be as many as 14,000 compared to Sanz's 0 (yes, 0) – were unaffected. (In fact, they were ultimately left out of the final figure; the 31,007 were votes cast in person.)

Neither side was completely happy but, naturally, both claimed victory. Accusing Perez of behaving anti-democratically, something he claimed was "proven" by the judgement, Sanz threatened to return to court to get the election postponed or the result overturned. Real Madrid's electoral committee ratified the postal vote, but Perez called upon all *socios* to make a special effort to vote in person, thus making the postal votes irrelevant and "proving to Sanz that we will not consent to him trying to damage the club in this way".

That the *socios* turned out in such huge numbers, with the press gleefully recounting stories of members who had already voted making huge trips to reaffirm their commitment to the president, pulled the rug violently from under Sanz's feet. It had all been much ado about nothing – "lots of noise, few nuts," as the Spanish put it. Sanz could no longer talk of democracy being under threat. He had been obliterated. Perez was the undisputed victor, boasting huge popular support, an incontrovertible democratic mandate. He was utterly untouchable.

It mattered little that Baldasano and Sanz not unjustly accused the omnipotent Perez of seeing himself as synonymous with the club, and rightly pointed out the huge disparity between the club's actual financial state and Perez's insistence that Madrid were in rude economic health. Or that Perez had just laid the first stone at a new training ground that was pledged to have been finished by the end of his first term. Or that Madrid were becoming increasingly unpopular for their arrogance and self-importance. Or that, for all the stars, the club had won nothing last season and finished only fourth in the table after a record five successive League defeats.

Management failures

It didn't even matter that the collapse was to a large extent a direct product of Perez's management of the club – of his marketing obsession, with its lucrative but ultimately suicidal pre-season tour around Asia; of his inflexible application of the 'Zidanes and Pavons' policy, which left frankly poor young footballers in a shockingly threadbare first-team squad alongside shattered superstars; of his refusal to sign a defender or replace defensive midfielder Claude Makelele.

When they came to the polls, Madrid fans ignored the team's collapse at the end of last season and instead judged Perez on the four years that preceded it. They judged him on the modernisation of the club and the stadium, with Perez announcing more improvements such as a complete, retractable roof. It didn't matter that this was evidently an afterthought: the new roof on one side of the Bernabeu is three metres shorter than the rest and needs to be rebuilt to allow for the retractable roof.

They judged him on Madrid's media and commercial importance, and, above all, on the

Ruler of the Bernabeu...Perez conducted a masterful re-election campaign

Welcome back...Perez greets former Real Madrid idol Camacho on his return as coach

Past glory...Sanz kisses the European Cup after victory in 1998

End of Monaco loan...Morientes

superstars he had brought to the club and their glorious success.

But there was more to it than that. Much as Perez loudly proclaimed that Madrid had won seven titles under him, those included 'add-on' trophies such as the World Club Cup and European Supercup. Madrid had, in fact, won two League titles and a European Cup – and not always as impressively as you might expect – in Perez's first term. Sanz had been voted out with two European Cups under his arm.

Best candidate

Perez's massive election victory spoke volumes not just about his popularity – rooted in a widespread feeling that Madrid are the greatest club in the world, a club that had definitively clawed back the ground on Barcelona – but also about his opponents' failings. There was, in the end, little doubt he was the best candidate.

Sanz might have returned the European Cup to Madrid after a 32-year wait, but he was widely seen as a crook. Allegations that he enjoyed the occasional – and club-financed – game of high-stakes poker with Atletico Madrid's Jesus Gil were hard to shake off. As was the feeling, cleverly cultivated by Perez, that Sanz's candidature was motivated by personal gain, bitterness and revenge.

Whatever else happened, Madrid fans were determined not to return to the Sanz era, while Baldasano – decent, pleasant enough and likeable – was considered a nobody, a lightweight. It didn't help that he presented virtually no real policies.

Perez's huge success in the wake of such a desperately disappointing season also reflected how superbly adroit he is when it comes to judging the public's mood and presenting himself to them. He always, always emerges smelling of roses, allowing others to carry the can.

Perez is a born politician, one who had the media (especially the PRISA group, owners of Cadena SER Radio and the newspaper *AS*) completely and utterly onside. *AS* led the way but *Marca* were also pro-Perez cheerleaders, rubbishing Sanz and all but ignoring Baldasano.

More importantly, Perez had already brilliantly judged the mood and made his move, stealing the thunder of his opponents by being seen to be putting right much of what they said was wrong, even before they said it. He managed to blame someone else into the bargain, stating: "I made just one mistake: hiring [coach Carlos] Queiroz."

Perez fired the scapegoat, and replaced him with club legend Jose Antonio Camacho. It was a masterstroke. By hiring the former national team boss, a no-nonsense,

demanding bruiser, Perez laid the blame for last term's failures squarely at Queiroz's door. It was Queiroz's fault Madrid were shattered (never mind the small squad or lack of a pre-season). It was Queiroz's fault the players were so capricious and had no respect for authority (never mind that Perez consciously looked for low-profile coaches who granted their players latitude, as well as consistently undermining his own manager's authority). It was Queiroz's fault that the youth teamers didn't play much (never mind that they weren't good enough). It was all Queiroz's fault. Don't worry, it won't happen with Camacho.

And yet it was not a straight swap. Camacho walked into a very different environment to the one Queiroz left. Perez won't admit as much publicly but it seems that he, too, has learnt from his mistakes. While Queiroz was ignored as he pleaded for players, Camacho is not, he wouldn't stand for it. He will be allowed – certainly for the time being – to work without interference. He may even be allowed to drop a *galactico* once in a while.

The quiet departure of sporting director Jorge Valdano has been highly convenient for Perez in respect of these changes in policy, allowing him to present them as the improvements that Valdano would not allow.

Camacho's orders

New signings need Camacho's say-so and the squad will be built with his needs in mind. Last year Queiroz watched Albert Celades and Fernando Morientes go out on loan; this year Camacho will have both to call upon, even though the club would rather sell. Queiroz was slaughtered for not using Javier Portillo; Camacho has let him go out on loan and no one has even noticed. The press are raving about how hard Ronaldo is running in training; last season they raved at how sensible Queiroz was for not over-working him and his vulnerable knee.

The biggest change, of course, has come in the transfer market. "I've always said that the best players would come to Real Madrid," said a campaigning Perez truthfully, before adding a new proviso, "in every position." That's why he splashed out £17million (to be paid in instalments) on Walter Samuel (a defender!), and then went after Patrick Vieira, a defensive midfielder in the Makelele role. David Beckham, who will be liberated from the workhorse role he unhappily filled last year, will be delighted. So, too, the fans.

'By hiring no-nonsense Camacho, Perez laid the blame at Queiroz's door'

Perez has pointed the finger, but there's little doubt that, while he would never say as much, he has learnt an important lesson too. He has altered his policy, strengthening Madrid where they really needed it. A back line of Michel Salgado, Samuel, Ivan Helguera and Roberto Carlos, protected by Vieira and managed by a man who will never, ever accept anything other than blood, sweat and tears? It's a frightening prospect.

Madrid really should walk La Liga, and Perez deserves credit. As the Spanish say, a wise man rectifies his mistakes. It would just be nice if he would admit to them, too.

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SPAIN TEAM BY TEAM

Sixties chic...Bilbao model the controversial 'psychedelic' shirt they will wear in Europe

ALBACETE

Coach: Jose Gonzalez
Key arrivals: Francisco (Almeria), Ferron (Zaragoza), Gonzalez (Univ Catolica), Gaspercic (Alaves), Luismi (Espanyol), Valbuena (Zaragoza), Ruben (Real Madrid), Mingo (Betis)
Key departures: Pablo (Atletico), Pedro (Ciudad de Murcia), Almunia (Arsenal), Aranda (Sevilla), Basti (Xerez), Simeon, Roa, Fabiano, Unai, Pacheco, Moso, Delporte (all released)
Prediction: Surprise survivors last season, Albacete have lost manager Cesar Ferrando to Atletico and will struggle. The departures of Aranda, Almunia and, especially, centre-back Pablo could prove costly.

ATHLETIC BILBAO

Coach: Ernesto Valverde
Key arrivals: Casas, Azkorra, Solabarrieta, Angulo (all Bilbao B)
Key departures: Larrazabal, Merino, D Karanka (all released)
Prediction: For the fifth summer running, Bilbao have spent no money. No matter: the Lions have returned to Europe (where they'll be wearing a controversial, psychedelic shirt) and, led by Yeste, Tiko and Etxeberria, they'll also fancy their chances of another top-six finish.

ATLETICO MADRID

Coach: Cesar Ferrando
Key arrivals: A Lopez (Osasuna), Pablo (Albacete), Perea (Boca Juniors), Leo Franco, Colsa (both Mallorca), Amaya (Getafe), Luccin (Celta)
Key departures: Pinola (Racing Avellaneda), Rodrigo (At Mineiro), Sergio Sanchez, Amaya (both Getafe), Juanma (Numancia), Ortiz (Osasuna), De los Santos (Valencia), Movilla, Javi Moreno (both Zaragoza), Lequi, Burgos, Nikolaidis
Prediction: Atletico's transfer activity has, for once, focused on the less glamorous positions, with the club signing defensive midfielder Peter Luccin, defender Luis Perea and goalkeeper Leo Franco. Striker Fernando Torres will again be the key. A top-six finish beckons.

BARCELONA

Coach: Frank Rijkaard
Key arrivals: Belletti (Villarreal), Van Bronckhorst (Arsenal), Giuly (Monaco), Larsson (Celtic), Deco (Porto), Silvinho (Celta), Edmilson (Lyon)
Key departures: Kluivert (Newcastle), Cocu (PSV), Overmars, Luis Enrique (both retired), Sergio Garcia (Levante), Reiziger (Middlesbrough), Mario (Mallorca), Enke (Hannover), Quaresma (Porto), Davids (Inter)
Prediction: After a magnificent second half to last season, Barcelona's aim now is to win the title for the first time in five years. New arrivals Deco and Giuly will supplement the genius of Ronaldinho, while full-backs Silvinho and Belletti are excellent signings. Barca are also battling for striker Samuel Eto'o, but are yet to truly replace Edgar Davids.

BETIS

Coach: Lorenzo Serra Ferrer
Key arrivals: Castellini (Torino), Oliveira (Valencia), Doblas (Xerez)
Key departures: Palermo (Boca), Ito (Espanyol), Calado (Ejido), Mingo (Albacete), Joao Tomas (Braga), Gudjonsson, Casas
Prediction: There's no doubt that Betis have the talent. There are, however, question marks over their temperament – and that's where new coach Serra Ferrer comes in. If he can get winger Joaquin on song and consistently supplying new striker Ricardo Oliveira a UEFA Cup place is within Betis's grasp.

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

Coach: Javier Irureta
Key arrivals: Ruben, Momo (both Las Palmas), Jesus (Zaragoza), Dani Mallo (Elche), Abreu (Tecos)
Key departures: Djalminha (America), Ivan Perez, Fernando, Djorovic, Songo'o, Amavisca, Fran
Prediction: Irureta continues to ask for new faces but Depor have been anonymous in the summer transfer market. With long-term captain Fran departing and a number of key players, not least Mauro Silva, ageing, it's tempting to ask whether this is the end of an era. Third, second, second and first in the past four years, another Champions League place would be even more of an achievement than in past seasons.

ESPANYOL

Coach: Miguel Angel Lotina
Key arrivals: Pochettino (Bordeaux), Dani (Zaragoza), Ito (Betis), Domi (PSG), Kameni (Le Havre), Ibarra (Oporto)
Key departures: Toni (retired), Raducanu (Bielefeld), Vignal (Liverpool, loan return), Torricelli, Cruyff, Tayfun, Bobson, Luismi
Prediction: Espanyol only avoided relegation on the final day of last season but shouldn't go through the same heartache again. Ivan De la Pena, top of the assist charts despite only playing half of last season, is staying and so too is captain and true leader Raul Tamudo – scorer of 19 goals last term.

Ludovic Giuly (Barcelona)

GETAFE

Coach: Quique Sanchez
Key arrivals: Sergio Sanchez, Amaya (Atletico), Yordi (Zaragoza), Pernia (Recreativo), Gallardo (Sevilla), Vitali (Leganes), Borja, Sanchez Broto (Murcia), Ricky (Real Madrid B), Pachon (Valladolid), Pulido (Rayo), Albiol (Valencia)
Key departures: Uranga (Sociedad), Nacho, Bernaus (Elche), Ruben Reyes, Calleja, Castro
Prediction: Making their First Division debut, Getafe's aim is mere survival. Their new manager is the widely-respected, intelligent ex-Madrid youth team coach Quique Sanchez, and Getafe have made a number of interesting, if mostly free signings. Will struggle, though.

LEVANTE

Coach: Bernd Schuster
Key arrivals: Nacho (Malaga B), Mjallby (Celtic), Harte (Leeds), Culebras (Numancia), Sergio Garcia (Barcelona), Juanma (Malaga)
Key departures: Carpintero (Alaves)
Prediction: Valencia's other team are back in the top flight for the first time since 1965 and should have both the money and support base to survive. Schuster has a number of new signings, including Johan Mjallby and Ian Harte.

MALAGA

Coach: Gregorio Manzano
Key arrivals: none
Key departures: Josemi (Liverpool), Salva (Valencia), Canabal (Pontevedra), Insua (Independiente), Rojas, Diego Alonso
Prediction: Tenth last season, but will probably struggle this time. It was a surprise Malaga let excellent manager Juande Ramos leave, but in Manzano they at least have one of Spain's sharpest coaches when it comes to the psychological game. However, no amount of mental agility can hide the fact Malaga desperately need a striker.

continued on Page 46

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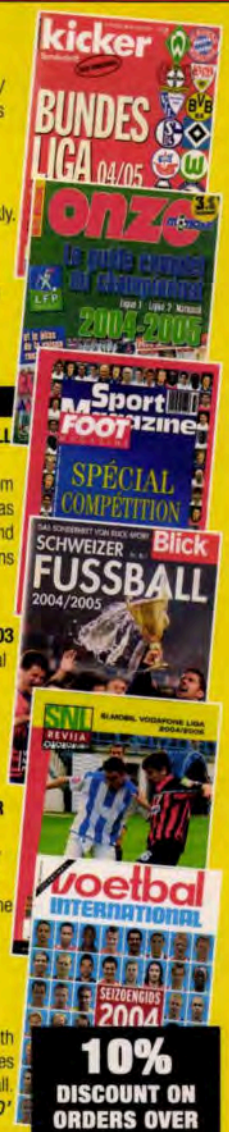

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SPAIN TEAM BY TEAM

MALLORCA

Coach: Benito Floro
Key arrivals: Mario (Barcelona), Muller (Lyon), Cifuentes (Ciudad de Murcia), Arango (Puebla), Marcos Vales (Sevilla)
Key departures: Tuni (Salamanca), Lussenhoff, Toni Gonzalez (Ciudad de Murcia), Leo Franco, Colsa (both Atletico), Raul Martin (Tenerife), Vicente, Edu Moya, Correa, Miki, Finidi, Nene, Olaizola,
Prediction: Every year Mallorca sell their best player, yet every year they survive. Until now perhaps. The brilliant, irrepressible Samuel Eto'o looks almost certain to be the latest high-profile departure, and while new manager Benito Floro is methodical and clever, Eto'o's departure could prove a fatal blow.

NUMANCIA

Coach: Francisco Lopez
Key arrivals: Toche (Atletico), Juanlu (Alicante), Pablo Sanz (Rayo), Ochoa (Alaves), Palacios (Osasuna), Pignol (Almeria), Jose Juan (Celta B), Juanma (Atletico), Juampa (Salamanca), Tevenet (Algeciras), Ros (Barcelona), Graff (Rayo), Toche (Atletico)
Key departures: Mikel Alonso (Sociedad), Toril, Fagiani (Tenerife), Luis Garcia (Zaragoza), Culebras (Levante), Casado, Riano, Xisco Nadal, Rosu
Prediction: Making only their second appearance in the top flight, Soria-based Numancia will struggle to avoid relegation. They may have been last season's top scorers in the Second Division but they've made only modest additions to their squad.

OSASUNA

Coach: Javier Aguirre
Key arrivals: Clavero (Murcia), Jusue, Ortiz (Atletico), Delporte (Albacete), Corrales (Real Madrid B), Milosevic (Parma)
Key departures: Palacios (Numancia), Antonio Lopez (Atletico), Mateo (Valladolid), Brit (Salamanca), Gorka Garcia (Cordoba)
Prediction: Aguirre has built a compact, very hard-to-beat side. Having looked good for a UEFA Cup slot last term, they slid way down the table in the final weeks, so the coach will be looking for new signing Savo Milosevic to add the goals that were missing.

Walter Samuel (Real Madrid)

RACING SANTANDER

Coach: Lucas Alcaraz
Key arrivals: Aganzo (Real Madrid), Borges (Miramar), Regragui (Ajaccio), Sietes (Alaves), Bakhar, Cristian Alvarez, Marques (Vallecano)
Key departures: Bodipo, Coromina (both Alaves), Ricardo (Man United), Pablo Lago
Prediction: Occasionally brilliant, more often brittle, Racing at least have the guile to secure a (lower) mid-table finish, thanks not least to Israeli playmaker Yossi Benayoun. The departure of Bodipo puts greater pressure on Mario Regueiro to provide pace up front, but David Aganzo could be an interesting addition. Will struggle, but should survive.

REAL MADRID

Coach: Jose Antonio Camacho
Key arrivals: Samuel (Roma), Morientes (Monaco), Celades (Bordeaux)
Key departures: Flavio Conceicao (Galatasaray), Ruben (Albacete), Aganzo (Racing), Cambiasso (Inter), Carlos Sanchez (Ejido), Portillo (Fiorentina)
Prediction: Last season's collapse has done nothing to lower expectations at Real Madrid. With Walter Samuel signing and Patrick Vieira seemingly on his way, anything less than a glorious season, culminating in at least one major trophy, would be considered an abject failure. Runaway champions.

REAL SOCIEDAD

Coach: Jose Maria Amorrortu
Key arrivals: Brechet (Inter), Barkero (Ejido), Labaka (Ciudad de Murcia), Mikel Alonso (Numancia), Uranga (Getafe), Arteta (Rangers)
Key departures: De Pedro (Blackburn), Aranzabal (Zaragoza), Potillon (PSG), Schurrer (Olympiakos), Kvarme (retired), Llorente (Eibar), Gurrutxaga
Prediction: Raynald Denoueix appeared to lose his players last season and has been replaced by former Eibar boss Amorrortu. Meanwhile, central midfielder Mikel Arteta has returned to Spain from Rangers, but fans shouldn't get too excited about a dream partnership with Xabi Alonso – the Spain international looks likely to leave. Might wobble, but should survive OK.

Stefano Fiore (Valencia)

SEVILLA

Coach: Joaquin Caparros
Key arrivals: Makukula (Valladolid), Aranda (Villarreal), Dani, Toedtli (Recreativo), Renato (Santos), Sales (Valladolid), Jordi (Real Madrid B)
Key departures: Oscar, Hornos (both Valladolid), Marcos Vales (Mallorca), Gallardo (Getafe), Maranon (Murcia), Magallanes, Fredi, Caballero
Prediction: With Makukula joining last year's revelation Julio Baptista, Sevilla boast a frighteningly powerful strikeforce. The UEFA Cup will stretch their resources but even so the pacy, well-organised side could even improve on last season's sixth place.

VALENCIA

Coach: Claudio Ranieri
Key arrivals: Caneira (Bordeaux), Butelle (Metz), Salva (Malaga), De los Santos (Atletico), Albiol (Recreativo), Fiore, Corradi (both Lazio), Di Vaio (Juventus)
Key departures: Carew (Besiktas), Oliveira (Betis), Garrido (St Etienne), Sanchez, Enguix, Rangel
Prediction: The reigning champions have a new major shareholder, and a more peaceful future at last beckons in the boardroom. New manager Ranieri, given the freedom denied to Rafa Benitez, has brought in a troupe of Italians, including Marco Di Vaio and Stefano Fiore, but it is still hard to see Valencia repeating last year's feats. The decision to let Jorge Lopez leave comes as quite a surprise.

VILLARREAL

Coach: Manuel Pellegrini
Key arrivals: Rodriguez (San Lorenzo), Font (Ciudad de Murcia), Armando Sa (Benfica), Xisco Nadal (Numancia)
Key departures: Pedro Marti (Elche), Aranda (Sevilla), Belletti (Barcelona), Coloccini (Milan)
Prediction: Villarreal are a talented side but it remains to be seen how much the departures of Belletti, Pedro Marti and Fabricio Coloccini affect them, especially with a small squad anyway. That said, they should still push for a UEFA Cup place, and up front Sonny Anderson is still a star.

Sonny Anderson (Villarreal)

ZARAGOZA

Coach: Victor Munoz
Key arrivals: Aranzabal (Sociedad), Oscar (Valladolid), Drulic, Camacho, Luis Garcia (Numancia), Movilla, Javi Moreno (both Atletico)
Key departures: Ferron, Valbuena (both Albacete), Yordi (Getafe), Dani (Espanyol), Juanele (Terrassa), Inaki (Valladolid), Bilic (Cordoba), Rebosio, Pablo, Jesus, Vellisca, Corona, Espadas
Prediction: The Copa del Rey holders will be looking to push their way towards mid-table and possibly higher having, in the end, fairly comfortably avoided relegation last season. Central midfielder Movilla has made his loan move permanent and could be a key player, while young striker David Villa has already impressed.

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The most impressive new arrival of recent years has been David Goldblatt's **Football Yearbook**. The 2004-05 edition (Dorling Kindersley, £20) is packed full of imaginative, colourful graphics. The only criticism is that countries are not listed alphabetically, making it awkward to navigate. But its combination of visuals and information, not to mention its global reach, is outstanding.

The **Match of the Day Football Yearbook** (BBC Books, £19.99) tries a similarly ambitious use of graphics, but suffers from what might be termed Opta-itis – namely too many stats and not enough interpretation of them.

Certainly the **Sky Sports Football Yearbook** (Headline, £19.99) could learn a trick or two in terms of presentation from Goldblatt and the BBC, but any move into colour or graphics would take it over the magical £20 barrier. The beauty of the original football annual, edited by the daughter and father team of Glenda and Jack Rollin, is its consistency, and long may that remain.

The Rollins are also behind the **Playfair Football Annual** (Headline, £6.99), an excellent pocket guide to the season.

The Times Football Yearbook (Collins, £19.99) is, claim the publishers, "the football annual you can actually read". In fact the combination of stats and reprinted articles from the paper doesn't quite work as a reference guide, though there are some useful features, such as the most recent transfer fees paid for Premier League players.

Gavin Hamilton

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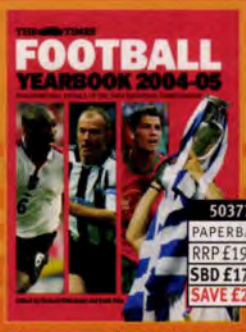

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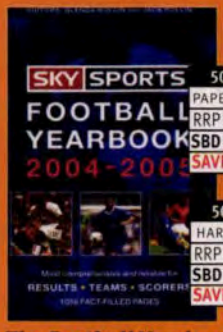

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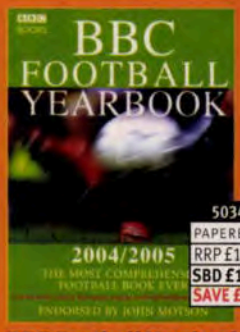

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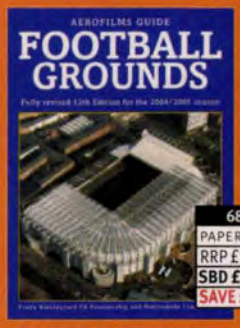

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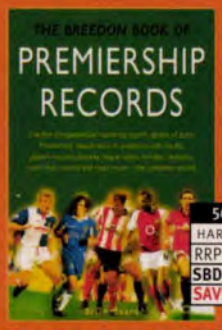

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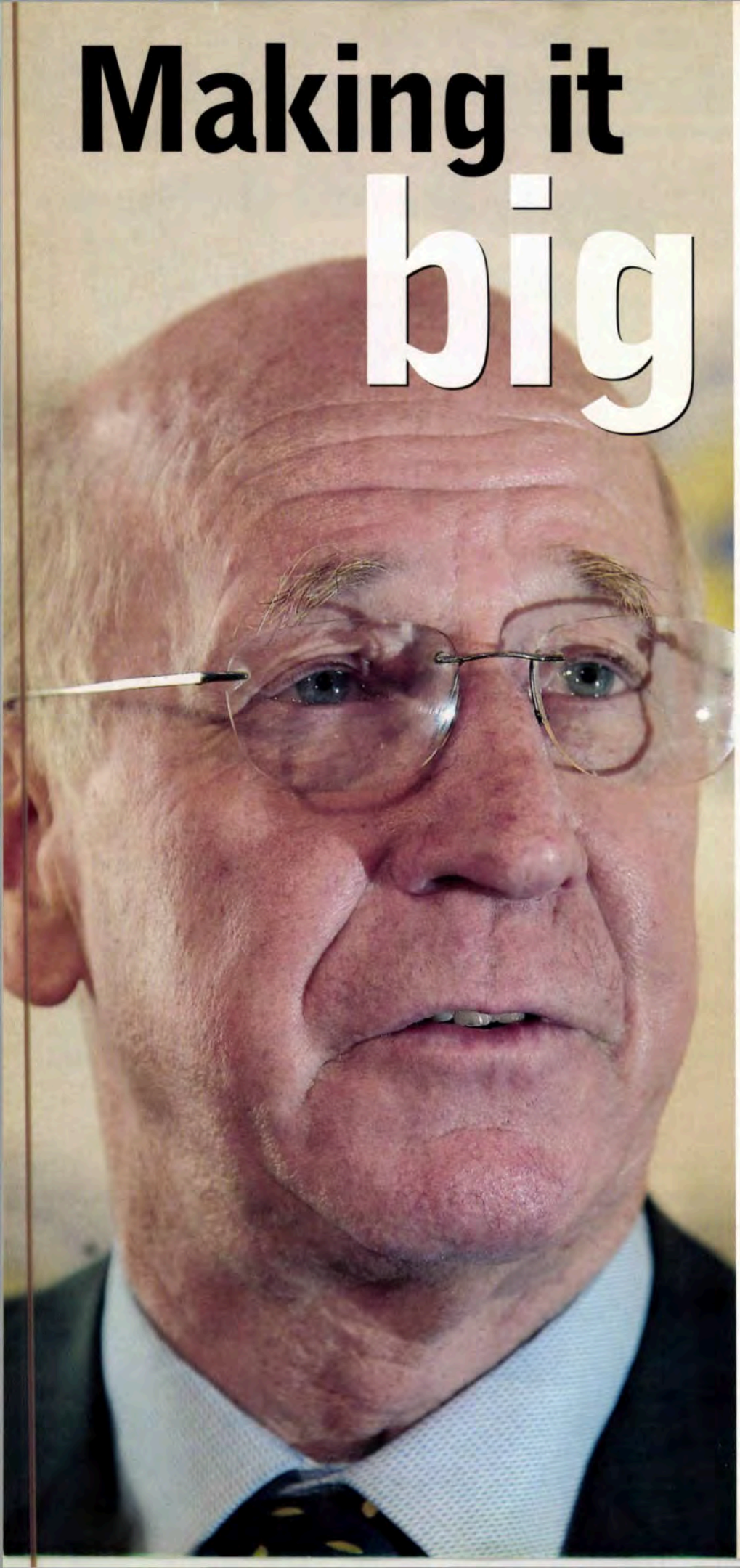
Making it big



UEFA 1954 50 years 2004

In the latest in a special series of interviews to mark UEFA's golden jubilee, former Manchester United and England star Sir Bobby Charlton looks back at the growing importance of the European club competitions

SO MUCH OF WHAT we now recognise and accept about the big clubs goes back to the creation in 1955 of the European Cup. Obviously the competition has developed and expanded now into the UEFA Champions League because it's had to move with the times and, indeed, with its own incredible success. But whatever it's called, it remains the one competition any big club with ambition beyond its own doorstep wants to win.

The English football authorities refused to let Chelsea enter in the first season and then they tried to stop us at Manchester United after we won the League in 1956. One of the objections from the Football League was that playing in Europe would mean we were playing too many matches. So what did the League do a couple of years later? Launch the League Cup, which of course meant more matches!

United's manager, Matt Busby, knew better. He had vision. He believed that the European Cup represented the future of the game, and he wanted United to be right in at the start. So we played and, of course, the rest is history.

Look at the names of the other clubs who were involved in the early years: Real Madrid, Milan, Juventus, Benfica, Barcelona – they were the biggest names then in the club game and they are still up there now. Because they were in at the start, like United, they also reaped the benefits.

Of course it was a very different world then. Television was not worldwide in its coverage and the only live football on TV in England was the FA Cup Final. Now we have live football almost every day.

Nobody could even dream of satellite television. I remember watching an early European match involving Real Madrid – it was the first time I'd seen them – on a tiny black-and-white set, and the picture kept breaking up. It was really primitive compared with today, but back then it was like opening a window to another world.

Coverage of football around the world now is so far-reaching that it's almost lost a little of that sense of adventure we had in the 1950s and 1960s. There are no surprises any more about clubs or players, even from South America.

The two-leg knockout system of the European Cup was successful because of the drama it brought and also, of course, floodlighting was pretty new. Those were always the most exciting matches either to play in or watch. As a young player, you never knew quite where you were going or what players or styles you would come up against – or what conditions. I remember we went to Hungary once when the Danube had flooded and the pitch was under water, so we had to come all

the way home and then go back again the next week! You would never have that now. Everything is so much more professional, not only in terms of communication and conditions and organisation, but also as far as nutrition and training are concerned.

That's also made a difference to the length of players' careers. When I started out, you hoped you could play until you were 30 and that you had the luck to steer clear of serious injury. Now, if you have a cartilage problem, keyhole surgery means you're back in next to no time. In my day you would be out for at least six months, and it was 50/50 whether you would even play again.

In England we learned a lot from going into Europe, and I'm sure the continental clubs and coaches learned things from us about attitude and so on. We all helped each other improve. It was not only the clubs who benefited, but also the national teams. I know there's so much hype now surrounding the World Cup and European Championship, but it's still marvellous for footballers to test themselves by playing against the best players in the world.

Gaining popularity

Off the pitch, of course, there was enormous commercial progress in post-war Europe. That started to have its effect in football and turned it from being not just one of several popular games but into the majority game for the entire world. That has brought other responsibilities. You see it with all the big clubs and the leagues in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and England: professional football now has to be run as a proper business.

The change is thanks largely to TV and sponsors, whose investment in football helps to keep ticket prices affordable so fans can come to the games. Sometimes people complain about the business side of the game, but they should see it all in context.

In England I think we've led the way in merchandising. Clubs from other countries are always sending people along to see how we work. And it's not just about making money. I get a bit tired when people talk like that. They ignore one of the human reasons why it's very important for clubs such as Manchester United. We have millions of fans who would love to see the team play at Old Trafford every week, but they live on the other side of the world. So the next best thing we can offer them is to be a part of the club through merchandising, so they can have the sense of belonging to the Manchester United family.

We have developed links all around the world to maximise our popularity. But that means we also have a responsibility to come up with a team and results for our fans to be proud of. That's always meant bringing in the best players we can.

This does cause difficulties every now and again, with players called up for their national teams. It's an issue that is preoccupying G-14, of which we are a member. It was always a problem for managers even back in the days when I was playing, but it's exacerbated now because players are so expensive. Sometimes a player who has been away on World Cup duty in South America or a far-flung corner of Europe does not get back until the morning of the next League game. He's hardly in a condition to run straight out on to the pitch.

Then and now... (clockwise from top right) Sir Matt Busby; Charlton cries with joy after beating Real Madrid in 1968; United with the European Cup the same year; a United bar and retail outlet in the Far East

'Matt Busby had vision. He believed the European Cup was the future of the game'

However the media may portray it, we're always very proud at United whenever any of our players are selected for their national teams, even though sometimes it seems as if someone is always away for one game or another. Clearly, though, clubs have to protect their interests. So we try to keep communication going with all our players' national associations about their matches, especially if they are not World Cup or European Championship qualifiers. It's important we all try to find some common ground.

I can see the argument from both sides. I was fortunate enough to win the World Cup with England and the European Cup with Manchester United. Honestly, I could not choose between them. You can't go any higher up the representative ladder than win the World Cup. On the other hand, when we won the European Cup against Benfica at Wembley in 1968, it was such an emotional achievement for Sir Matt because of what had happened 10 years earlier at Munich.

But if you asked me to remember one match for drama, I'd go for the second leg of our semi-final that season against Real in Madrid. We'd beaten them 1-0 at our place but when we went back to Spain we were 3-1 down at half-time. The world seemed to be collapsing because we wanted so badly to win. But somehow we got back to 3-2 and 3-3 to reach the Final.

There has to be room for both clubs and countries in the game. Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini at FIFA have come up with good ideas in organising a unified international calendar, but that brings other problems. Nowadays, every country wants to be at the World Cup, and there's been a huge expansion in the number of countries involved in international football. That means more matches, which means a greater demand on players' time.

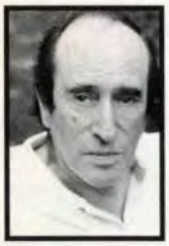
Let's all work together

I know the way G-14 has raised some of these issues may have upset a few people, but that's only because the game is now so big. FIFA is important, UEFA is important and so are the other confederations – but so are the clubs. Everyone needs to work together so the players can give their very best for both their clubs and their countries. The game's administrators must do the same – and sometimes you feel this is not the case.

That's something that has to change in the next few years to make sure the game continues to develop around the world.

Sir Bobby Charlton was speaking exclusively with Keir Radnedge of World Soccer, *a member of the ESM (European Sports Magazines) group*

CORRECTION: In the Michael Laudrup interview in the June edition, we incorrectly captioned Denmark's captain at Euro 92 as Morten Olsen. It was, of course, Lars Olsen.



FOOTBALL MEMORIES

Brian Glanville on the accomplished player and journalist Ivan Sharpe

Sharpe operator

THE FIRST TIME I met Ivan Sharpe was in Florence in 1952, the year in which he published his delightfully evocative autobiography, *Forty Years In Football*.

By then, he was an elderly, affable journalist, the chief football writer of the *Sunday Chronicle*. Yet he had been a journalist from his teenage years, even when he was playing outside-left for, among others, Derby County and the United Kingdom team that won the Olympic title in Stockholm in 1912. He had a trial for the full England team, too, though he admits he was so nervous that day that he failed it.

Sharpe was a slender little fellow as a player, but he was pacy and able to operate on either wing.

He was also an excellent, far-sighted journalist, displaying his skills as editor of *Athletic News*.

Sharpe actually played in the same Derby forward line as Steve Bloomer, whose goalscoring records with England, Derby and Middlesbrough stood for years.

The picture Sharpe gives of him is characteristically precise and observant. He noted, for example, that Bloomer's powerful shooting, which brought him 352 League goals, came not quite from the instep but from closer to the toe, thus enabling him to get his shots off more quickly.

Another of football's great heroes, John Goodall, cycled from Watford to the local newspaper office in St Albans where the young Sharpe then worked to persuade him to sign for his team. Goodall, one of the mighty Preston Invincibles, was by then player-manager of humble Watford, a Southern League side. Goodall, too, would go on to play in Derby's attack. "It was the proudest moment of my life," wrote Sharpe.

Anecdotes proliferate in Sharpe's book. When Dinamo Moscow played in Cardiff, Sharpe learnt that of all the unlikely things, the secretive Dynamos had gone to a local dance hall. Sharpe found his way there, told the party he was an ex-international rather than a journalist, and was bombarded by endless questions. But as it turned out, those asking them were the reserves rather than the first team, who'd already left.

'He was slender, pacy and could play on either wing'

In 1933 Sharpe travelled with the England squad that played Italy for the first time in Rome. The party visited St Peter's, where, oblivious to the glories of the church, Eric Brook, Manchester City's outside-left and a down-to-earth Yorkshireman, could only say: "Somebody's pinched my effing boots!"

Sharpe always had the heart of the footballing matter. "They coach, we don't," he wrote of the Italians in *Athletic News*, "and until we do coach, and coach properly, we shall not control the ball and play high-class football. We shall just muddle through."

He was, of course, quite right, though what he would have thought of the perversion of coaching at the FA under the corrosive rule of Long-ball Charlie Hughes would have been instructive.

In the spotlight...Sharpe during his playing days

FROM THE ARCHIVES
SEPTEMBER 1980

English football had "flipped its lid" according to the editorial comment in the September 1980 edition of World Soccer, *following the exchange of Arsenal striker Clive Allen for Crystal Palace full-back Kenny Sansom.*

"FEW WOULD BELIEVE that Britain suffers from a recession when footballers with hugely inflated prices on their heads – and in some cases, egos to match – are moved around like hunks of meat.

"It says little for British football that a club which lost two Cup Finals because they couldn't score a goal find the need for a full-back more pressing than that for a genuine goalscorer.

"But at least some sanity prevailed and Arsenal refused to capitulate to the wage demands of Peter Reid, who was on the verge of signing for Bolton Wanderers. Reid is reported to have asked for £1,400 a week and was politely shown the door…How can an average English player with limited First Division experience and no international honours be worth £70,000 a year in wages?

"Footballers have a relatively short career and are entitled to earn enough money to secure their futures, but how can the man in the street, battling against inflation and paying hard-earned money to watch football, reconcile himself to wages on that scale.

"A figure of £70,000 per year is not that high in the sporting world; the top tennis and golf stars would consider that sum peanuts. But there are fundamental differences. Only the top tennis and golf pros earn big money. Others have to make do with substantially less. But they all work much harder than footballers, and for longer periods.

"A soccer professional's life is not that demanding. Training and match play consume less time than most people would expect to work in an average week. Talks of pressure, strains and the like are grossly exaggerated.

"A footballer is also part of a team and as such his own individual performance can be hidden within the framework of others. Golf and tennis stars have nobody to fall back on if they have an off day.

"The transfer market has gone mad and million-pound moves are almost commonplace. It is ironic that while unproved players cost so much, Juventus were able to sign Liam Brady from Arsenal for a relatively small sum. European legislation will ensure that the Italian club pays Arsenal considerably less than half a million. Perhaps the time has come to adopt similar ceilings in England."

FOOTBALL LINGO

#6 Selecao

Portuguese word, literally meaning 'selection', that has come to be used to describe the Brazilian national team.

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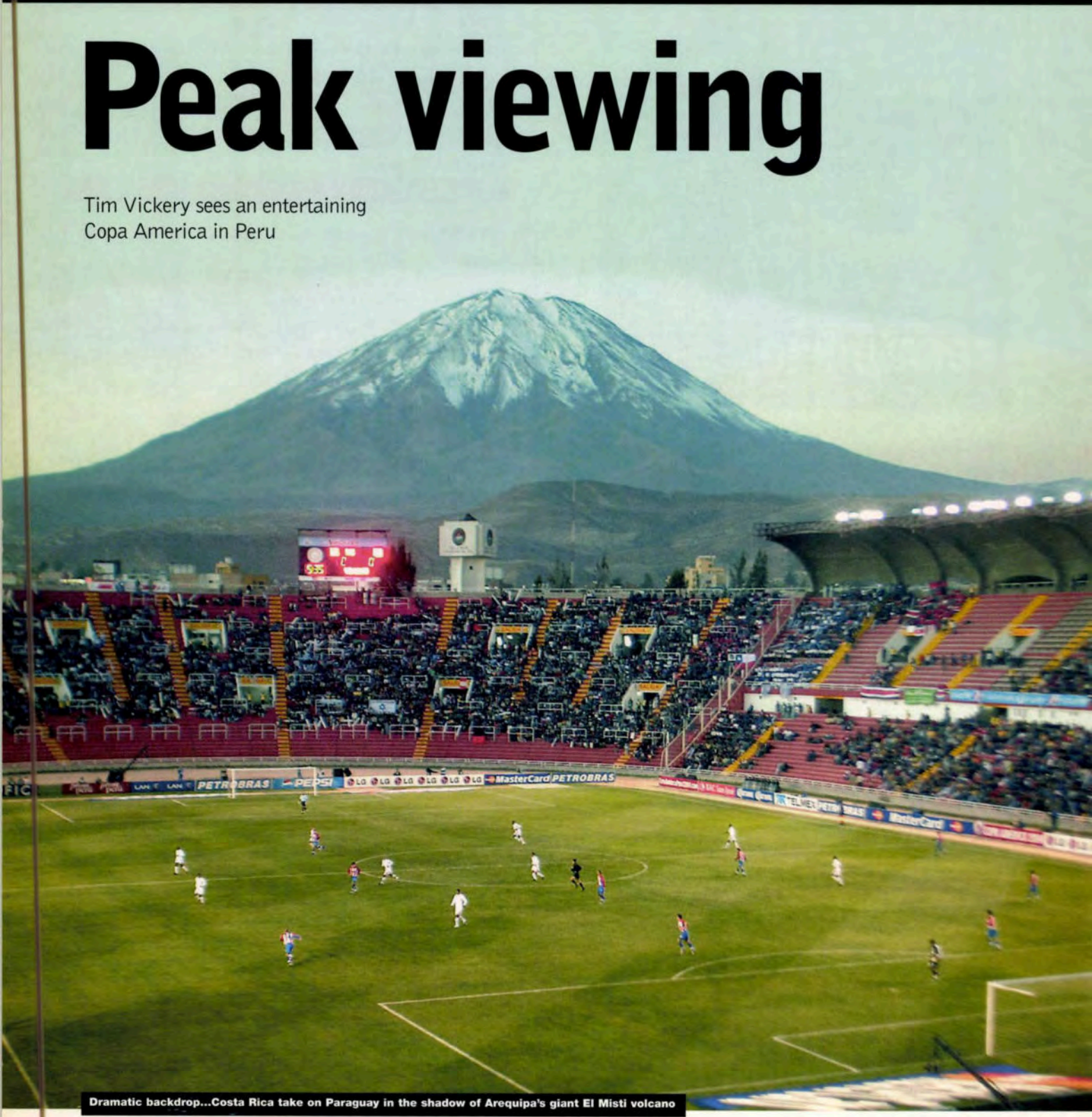
Peak viewing

Tim Vickery sees an entertaining Copa America in Peru



Dramatic backdrop...Costa Rica take on Paraguay in the shadow of Arequipa's giant El Misti volcano

"EURO 2004 IS SUPERIOR in terms of glamour and organisation," said Carlos Alberto Parreira, coach of winners Brazil. "But on the field, where it matters, the standard of play in this Copa America is as good, if not better." Certainly there could be no complaints about either the quantity or the quality of the goals. From first to last the tournament was lit up with outstanding individual strikes and some memorable collective moves as well, mostly from Argentina.

Group A

The emotional high point of the whole tournament came on the opening night in Lima. Hosts Peru were 2-1 down to Bolivia, and in the frantic search for an equaliser they were tripping and colliding. Then the ball came to Roberto Palacios with four minutes to play – and time stood still. The symbol of the Peru side had been left on the bench for this, the most important occasion of his long career, and he had come on determined to seize the moment. With calm and class he juggled past two defenders before crashing in a left-foot volley, and it felt as if all of Peru had scored the goal.

The hosts found themselves in trouble because of a fundamental flaw in their defending. Coach Paulo Autori selected three strikers. It gave them plenty of firepower but left veteran holding midfielder Juan Jayo overloaded and allowed Bolivia to play the ball behind Peru's high defensive line. It cost them two goals, the second a superb Lorgio Alvarez shot from an impossible angle.

Peru fought back to draw, but the dropped points meant that Colombia won the group. Coach Reinaldo Rueda has brought about a swift improvement in their fortunes, mainly because he has introduced a method of play that no longer seeks to replicate that of emblematic playmaker Carlos Valderrama. The new-style Colombia defend deep and break quickly, with one back-to-goal striker supported by two quick and skilful players. Theirs was an experimental side, but they produced plenty of impressive moments, confirming the impression that Colombian football is on the verge of a breakthrough.

Bolivia and Venezuela, the other Group A teams, eliminated each other after a 1-1 draw in Trujillo on the third matchday. Even so, the Bolivians did better than expected in the absence of their most experienced players. A lack of fitness meant they struggled in the second half of all their games. But new coach Ramiro Blacut managed to get the best out of eternal promise Limberg Gutierrez, and there was much to admire in the intelligent movement of striker Joaquin Botero.

Venezuela disappointed, though were it not for Bolivia keeper Leonardo Fernandez they would have made it to the quarter-finals. Their problem was a failure to play the ball quickly enough into wide spaces, making it hard for them to create space for Juan Arango coming through the middle. They must now learn the lessons and regain their momentum in World Cup qualification.

Group B

The so-called 'group of death', staged in the northern cities of Chiclayo and Piura, ended the reign of Hernan Dario Gomez as coach of Ecuador. His resignation, accepted with great reluctance, was prompted by disappointment with the fitness level of some of his senior players.

Terrible goalkeeping added to the team's woes, though at least they could celebrate the resurgence of Agustin Delgado and the promise of Franklin Salas. For Gomez, though, everything was overshadowed by the way his side caved in at the end of their 6-1 defeat to Argentina in the first game.

The match appeared to mark the coming of Javier Saviola, scorer of a hat-trick, as Argentina's leading striker. In fact, his failure to make an impression against Mexico in the following game seemed to leave coach Marcelo Bielsa doubting him once more, and having picked up an injury he took no part in the knockout stages.

Mexico's 1-0 victory over Argentina put them on the road to winning the group and among the candidates to take the title. In truth, however, they were nowhere near as impressive as the side who finished runners-up in 2001. Their coach then, Javier Aguirre, had the team sufficiently compact to play some splendid one-touch football. Ricardo Lavolpe's 2004 model were over-reliant on the counter-attack.

Argentina qualified for the quarter-finals as runners-up, with Uruguay also going through as one of the two best third-place finishers.

The Uruguayans arrived in Peru in the middle of one crisis and soon found themselves mired in others. Disastrous results earlier in the year had forced the recall of Paolo Montero to impose order on the defence. Some in the FA saw him as a troublemaker, which angered other senior players and further inflamed a row about bonus payments.

On the pitch Montero did a superb job and was the outstanding defender of the tournament. However, his reorganisation came at a price. Montero moved the defensive line much further back, making them more difficult to play through, but stretching them out and leaving the strikers isolated. Even so, Uruguay qualified comfortably with the aid of some wonderful long-range strikes.

Group C

Three teams also made it through from the weakest of the groups, based in the south, in Arequipa and Tacna. Costa Rica grabbed the final slot in dramatic style, Andy Herron scoring an injury-time winner in the last game, against Chile. Exceptional goalkeeping from Ricardo Gonzalez had kept them in the game, but they were up against poor opposition. Chile's squad had been hit by injuries and withdrawals, and lacking strength in depth their options were limited.

Nevertheless, they were unlucky to get off to a losing start against Brazil. Sebastian Gonzalez missed a penalty after being bizarrely ordered to retake, and Brazil scored an ill-deserved last-minute winner.

The world champions found it extremely hard to deal with the conditions at Arequipa, 2,300 metres above sea level. Altitude has become a trauma for Brazil because it takes away

Hosts win over the doubters

It was not the easiest moment to stage a Copa America in Peru. President Alejandro Toledo's approval rating is in single figures, there was a one-day general strike during the competition and the domestic airlines are in chaos.

In the course of the Copa America one of the two main carriers had its operations suspended after its insurance ran out. Even while it was still operating there were not enough internal flights. So the local organising committee had to overcome some daunting obstacles in pursuit of their aim of decentralising Peruvian football.

There were problems, and plenty of improvisation. But the overall impression was that a valiant effort had been made by serious and committed people. Less than two days after the Final a preliminary report was presented to the press, an excellent example of transparency and organisation.

Keeping ticket prices relatively low (the average was £6.60) was a wise move. The figure of 71 per cent of seats sold bettered the most optimistic predictions and was all the more noteworthy bearing in mind Peru's early elimination. Lima's National stadium was half empty for the semi-finals, and the public in the southern city of Arequipa appeared to lose interest in their group, perhaps disappointed Brazil had not brought their big guns.

The highlight, then, was in the north, where the stadiums in Trujillo, Chiclayo and Piura were always close to capacity. Predictably there were problems at the two matches Peru played in the north. Demand far outstripped supply, there were some forged tickets flying around and hundreds of ticket holders were denied entry. While unsatisfactory, at least the sensible decision was taken. Letting everyone in and over-filling the stadium could have had disastrous consequences.

The impressions left by the 2004 Copa America are undeniably positive: wonderful food, splendid hospitality, a rich and diverse culture, and an exciting tournament with a memorable finale.

But as the memories fade what remains are the stadiums, reconstructed at a cost of £7.2 million. The local organising committee concluded that "the new sporting infrastructure offers an additional attraction that will result in bigger crowds and more gate money in the domestic championship".

This is presented as fact. But it is nothing more than supposition. Now it is up to those who run Peruvian football to make sure it comes true.

the lung power that has become increasingly important to their style of play. Playmaker Alex has great intelligence and an excellent left foot, but lacks strength and speed. He needs to be surrounded with pace, with the constant support of the full-backs and a dynamic midfield. But at altitude Brazil found it very hard to get their rhythm right, starting off too slowly against Chile and too quickly against Costa Rica. The latter was another game in which they looked troubled, only for Alex and Adriano to conjure a first goal that opened the floodgates in an eventual 4-1 win.

But Brazil were then beaten by Paraguay, who were using the competition to give some experience to the side going to Athens for the Olympic Games.

Theirs was an Under-23 team, bolstered by veterans Carlos Gamarra and Carlos Paredes. Finishing on top of the group outdid all their expectations.

As always Paraguay's fighting spirit shone through, and several young players showed considerable promise, most notably attacking left-back Ernesto Cristaldo and striker Nelson Haedo.

Blink of an eye...Argentina's Kily Gonzalez goes to chest the ball, with Peru's Nolberto Solano grounded

Quarter-finals

The competition had been set up in the hope that Peru would face either Brazil or Argentina in the Final. Such plans came unstuck because they all finished second in their group. This left Peru facing Argentina in Chiclayo in the quarter-finals.

The Peruvian players were unhappy about tabloid allegations that they had been involved in drinking sessions, and coach Autori unwisely decided not to speak to the entire Peruvian media, a heavy-handed measure guaranteed to make enemies. His selection policy was also under fire, but his options were limited for the Argentina game. Claudio Pizarro and Flavio Maestri were out injured, and Jefferson Farfan suspended – Autori was down to just one striker.

Defensively, however, the hosts did well, with Argentina's pressure largely restricted to corners in a tight game of few chances. Javier Zanetti was a rampaging force down the right, and crossed for Luciano Figueroa to head against the bar, but in the end it came down to a contest of free-kicks. Argentina substitute Carlos Tevez, with almost his first touch, curled over the wall and in. Peru's Nolberto Solano hit the bar with one free-kick, and then, in injury time with the entire nation holding its breath, struck another a yard too high. The hosts were out.

Colombia cruised past Costa Rica 2-0 in Trujillo, and the next day in Piura Brazil confounded predictions of an even match by brushing Mexico aside 4-0. The first goal was of great importance in the latter match, and Mexico were justified in their complaints after Brazil were awarded a dubious penalty. But Brazilian superiority was never in doubt. Relishing the escape from altitude, they were full of pace, power and dynamism, and Adriano, the scorer of two goals, was in unstoppable form.

In the other, exhilarating quarter-final in Tacna, Uruguay game from a goal down to beat Paraguay 3-1, despite being a man down. The Paraguayans had switched to three centre-backs in their final group game, against Brazil, and made the mistake of retaining the system. Against Uruguay's three strikers their giant defender Pedro Juan Benitez was continually pulled out to the right flank, where he was beaten for pace. A back four would have worked better.

Paraguay were unlucky not to have won at least one penalty, and Uruguay

Full stretch...Uruguay's Cristian Rodriguez and Carlos Gamarra of Paraguay

keeper Mario Sebastian Viera made an inspired debut. The pendulum seemed to have swung Paraguay's way when Gustavo Varela was dismissed just after the hour with the score at 1-1, but Dario Silva put Uruguay ahead with the aid of a cruel deflection on 65 minutes, and made the semi-final place secure with another goal in injury time.

Semi-finals

As the competition headed back to Lima the consensus was that Argentina faced a very difficult semi-final while Brazil's task was easy. Quite the reverse.

Colombia coach Rueda was quick to admit that his side "never had the ball" in their 3-0 defeat, adding: "We never put Argentina under pressure."

Part of the problem was the absence of their back-to-goal centre-forward Sergio Herrera. Without him, Colombia did not have a platform from which to launch their attacks. They were also up against an Argentina side producing one of their most convincing performances of the post-Maradona era. There was individual brilliance – the slalom dribbles of Tevez, and his clever free-kick that put Argentina ahead. There was fine collective play, such as the four-man move rounded off by Luis Gonzalez for the second goal. There was constant pressure on the opposition and precision passing at speed. It was a triumph for the philosophy of coach Bielsa.

The second semi-final was a triumph for Uruguay coach Jorge Fossati and his captain, Montero, despite losing on penalties. Fossati had said the only way to play Brazil was to attack them, and his team were as good as his words. Montero brought the defensive line higher up, and though Uruguay took risks with the offside trap, they applied constant early pressure, continually hitting the space behind Brazil's full-backs.

The assault paid off as Uruguay took the lead on 22 minutes, a weak header from Marcelo Sosa somehow evading keeper Julio Cesar. And if striker Silva had not blasted a shot against the bar from two yards – one of the all-time great misses – his side would have had more to show for their first-half superiority.

As it was, Adriano equalised right after the restart when Uruguay's offside trap let them down, and as Uruguay tired they allowed Alex more room to slip passes through to his strikers. Brazil

STAR TURNS

Three youngsters who made a name for themselves at the Copa America...

Javier MASCHERANO (Argentina)

Holding midfielder who was so impressive at Under-20 level that last year he made his senior international debut before playing in the River Plate first team. Tackles hard, passes well and will dominate midfields for years to come.

Abel AGUILAR (Colombia)

Picked out in last month's *World Soccer* as a teenager to watch, he out-stripped expectations with a superb tournament. A reliable, unflashy all-round midfielder of intelligence and class. Colombia seem to have unearthed a player for the next decade.

Mr Reliable...Aguilar

Ernesto CRISTALDO (Paraguay)

Attacking left-back who was magnificent in his country's first two games. Showed astonishing lung power and his left foot produced dangerous free-kicks, excellent crosses and a long-range goal against Chile to treasure.

...and two veterans who gave a reminder of their quality.

Swansong?...Montero

Javier ZANETTI (Argentina)

Left on the bench for a World Cup qualifier in June and many assumed he was finished. Emphatically proved the contrary with a series of storming displays down the right flank.

Paolo MONTERO (Uruguay)

Back for the first time since the World Cup for what seems likely to be his international swansong. If so, at least he went out at the top. Quietly organised everyone around him, read the game superbly and gave some wonderful left-foot passes out of defence.

were on top for the second half, though either side could have snatched a winner.

So the competition's first shoot-out ensued, and Brazil, 5-3 winners, deserve credit for taking nothing for granted. They had been practising penalties in training, with coach Parreira stressing that they were a test of technique as well as nerve – a comment that was to have extra resonance when the destiny of the title was decided four days later.

The third-place play-off was a meaningless affair, with the players dragged up to the altitude of Cusco mainly in the hope of attracting the press to Peru's principal tourist sight of Machu Picchu. But at least Uruguay's Vicente Sanchez, who missed the vital penalty in the semi-final shoot-out, had the chance to redeem himself with a man-of-the-match performance, which included scoring the clincher in the 2-1 victory.

● *See World Service for full results and squads.*

Worth a shout...Andy Herron roars away after hitting Costa Rica's winner v Chile

VICKERY'S VERDICT ON THE 12 TEAMS

ARGENTINA
There are reasons to be cheerful, providing they can overcome the heartbreak of Final defeat. New players coming through, the style is wonderful to watch, but they need a knockout punch.

BOLIVIA
New coach Ramiro Blacut has made an impressive start. The team look more competitive than for ages, though they need to work on fitness, and Germany 2006 looks a long way off.

BRAZIL
Have ominous strength in depth, and the best chance in decades of winning the World Cup in Europe, though purists will be disappointed with the lack of midfield magic.

CHILE
Battled to third in the World Cup qualifying table but their fragility has now been exposed. Coach Juvenal Olmos will pray his small pool of quality players all stay fit for the remaining 2006 qualifiers.

COLOMBIA
Coach Reinaldo Rueda has found a good tactical model, and the squad has a strength in depth few can match. Now they need to make up lost ground in the World Cup qualifiers.

ECUADOR
Hernan Dario Gomez resigned with old faces needing replacing, new ones knocking at the door. New coach and fellow Colombian Luis Suarez from Quito club Aucas must rebuild in mid-competition.

PARAGUAY
The Under-23 side acquitted themselves well in Peru, and the likes of Nelson Haedo, Ernesto Cristaldo and Edgar Barreto could all be thrust into World Cup qualification with few worries.

PERU
The pressure is really on coach Paulo Autori after the Copa America disappointment as hosts. He will do well to survive September's 'revenge' match against Argentina.

URUGUAY
Regained pride and gave more evidence of their attacking potency. But if Paolo Montero does decide to retire, they will be back to square one in terms of their defensive problems.

VENEZUELA
Disappointed, and coach Richard Paez now faces the tricky task of boosting morale and regaining momentum. Perhaps Copa America glory will come on home ground in three years.

COSTA RICA
Coach Jorge Luis Pinto took over on the eve of the competition and at least now knows that he has some dangerous and powerful strikers at his disposal.

MEXICO
Beat Argentina and topped Group B, but the 4-0 defeat by Brazil was a severe blow to Mexican pride. It also increased the pressure on coach Ricardo Lavolpe, with Hugo Sanchez waiting in the wings.

Going for Coke

ENGLAND

The new sponsors of the Football League are kidding themselves if they think they can change perceptions of the lower divisions, says Howard Johnson

Sleeve design...the new League logo in position

THEY USED TO tell you that Coke was 'The Real Thing'. But this was, of course, in the days before Diet Coke, Vanilla Coke and Coke With A Twist Of Lemon. So which is 'The Real Thing' now, we wonder? The original? All of them? None of them? Does anybody know? Does anybody care?

Such thoughts ran through my mind the other day when I drove past a lovely new billboard poster featuring the names of all 72 clubs in England's three lower divisions. OK, each outfit was spelt out underneath a far bigger Coca-Cola logo. And the big sell for the start of the new domestic season was that these clubs comprised 'The Real League' – subtle marketing, there. But I couldn't help guffawing at the latest attempt to piggy-back on football's enduring popularity. Come on, who are we trying to fool here? 'The Real League', is it? That's the one that doesn't feature Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United, is it? That sounds tremendously real!

Or do they mean 'real' as in 'The Real Deal'? You know, the rootsy league. Where men are men and football really is football. Plucky little clubs battling against the odds and the big boys' bucks. The true spirit of the game. Well, maybe you could make some sort of case for that...but then I saw the dire opening day game between Coventry and Sunderland. Listening to some faceless marketing bloke from Coca-Cola going on about how exciting his company's three-year, £15million sponsorship of the lower leagues might even be preferable to watching that drivel. If that's 'real' football, then I'll take the Premiership any day of the week, even with all its stupid showbiz razzmatazz and overpaid-footballer whinging nonsense.

At least the product's good, which is something you might have thought Coca-Cola would have set some store by. Maybe they don't know as much about football as they thought they did. Because despite Football League chairman Brian Mawhinney claiming that his top division is "reclaiming its history" by taking the change in sponsorship as an opportunity to rebrand Division One as The Championship, is anyone really going to be fooled?

As Mawhinney himself stated at the launch of Coca-Cola's sponsorship, "three weeks into the season nobody will care". It might not take that long. When Division One became The Premiership and Division Two nicked the Division One name, nobody suddenly believed they were getting a higher standard of football at the lower levels. And whatever these divisions are called, is Coca-Cola's sponsorship that big a deal for the Football League anyway? The £15m works out at only £1m more per season than in the deal with the previous sponsors, the Nationwide Building Society.

The gimmicks aimed at generating press coverage are seriously small beer – the £1m goal chase, for instance, will hand each club about £14,000 to fund a youth player for a year should the 72 clubs hit 4,500 goals between them this season. And the overall package is way short of the Premiership's £48m, three-year deal with Barclaycard that began in the 2001-02 season. The gap between the Premiership and the Football League widens every year, both on and off the pitch.

Of course, Mawhinney should be happy that at least he knows his money is safe. There'll be no ITV Digital-style nightmares with Coke. But £15m won't get anywhere near to curing the ills of a commercial world where, no matter what you brand things, first is first and second is increasingly nowhere.

Falling revenues have meant that lower league clubs are forced to survive on ever smaller playing staffs, while the loss of season-long trading with Premiership outfits due to the introduction of transfer windows in the top flight has put the squeeze on smaller clubs.

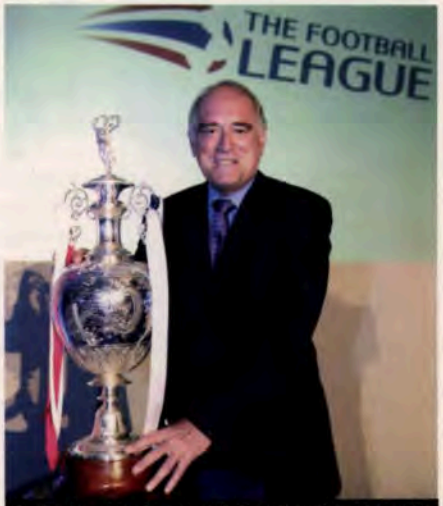
"Transfer windows have been very, very bad news for the Football League," Mawhinney said. "Our transfer values are now roughly half what they were a few seasons ago...Clubs have always needed the flexibility to transfer players from time to time. If you restrict it to a couple of windows then we're making trouble for ourselves."

Well, trouble only for the smaller, selling clubs, actually, as the big clubs simply sit it out till the last day of the transfer window and then table 'take it or leave it' bids. With six months to wait before there's even a chance of cashing in, the selling club are most often opting for the 'bird in the hand' approach.

The two-year FIFA transfer window pilot scheme as subscribed to by all the European leagues is now up. Definitive new plans have not been drawn up, so the status quo will be maintained for this season at least. This means the special dispensation given to lower league clubs to trade among themselves all year round remains in place. But it's likely this concession will be removed next season.

Mawhinney thinks this could be disastrous. But you could argue that the transfer restrictions will simply force clubs to set more realistic budgets. Is it really so bad that a sudden cash injection can no longer be relied upon to balance the books? Financial management surely can't be so haphazard as to be based upon the hope of flogging a player every so often.

Last season the Football League piloted a 'good governance' scheme for Third Division clubs that limited spending on all staff to 75 per cent of turnover. It has now also been introduced to the two leagues above. That's a sensible idea because counting the pennies properly is the reality of life for clubs outside the Premiership. In fact, it really is 'The Real Thing'.



On display...Mawhinney with The Championship trophy

Looks familiar...Philip Cocu, returning to PSV after six years, with coach Guus Hiddink

HOLLAND

Catch Ajax!

PSV AND FEYENOORD have both made strenuous squad-reinforcing efforts this summer as they attempt to close the gap on champions Ajax.

Philip Cocu has returned to the Eindhoven club after six years with Barcelona. PSV's other major signings are Heerenveen striker Gerald Sibon (Sheffield Wednesday), Peruvian forward Jefferson Farfan (Alianza Lima), USA midfielder DaMarcus Beasley (Chicago Fire), Brazilian defender Alex (Santos), Hungarian midfielder Csaba Feher (NAC) and keeper Edwin Zoetebier (Feyenoord). However, there are doubts about whether the new recruits are capable of replacing the England-bound trio of Arjen Robben, Mateja Kezman (both Chelsea) and Dennis Rommedahl (Charlton). Kezman, who scored 105 League goals in four seasons for PSV, will be an especially hard act to follow.

New Feyenoord coach Ruud Gullit has also been flashing the cash, signing Belgian midfielder Bart Goor (Hertha Berlin), Hungarian keeper Gabor Babos (NAC), winger Romeo Castelen (Den Haag), Tunisian defender Karim Saidi (Club Africain) and midfielder Pascal Bosschaart (Utrecht).

Ajax coach Ronald Koeman appeared happy enough to keep his title-winning squad together, since there were no new notable arrivals. Indeed, several players have been deemed surplus to requirements, including Petri Pasanen (now at Werder Bremen), Jelle Van Damme (Southampton) and Abubakari Yakubu and Richard Knopper (both Vitesse). Full-back Hatem Trabelsi, linked with Arsenal, is also out of the picture following a contract dispute.

Other significant transfers include: Swedish full-back Erik Edman (Heerenveen to Tottenham), Belgian keeper Geert De Vlieger (Willem II to Manchester City), South African keeper Hans Vonk (Heerenveen to Ajax), striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar (PSV) and midfielder Youssef Hersi (NEC, both to Heerenveen), Jamie Smith (Celtic to Den Haag), Belgian defender Stijn Vreven (Kaiserslautern) and Serbian striker Igor Gluscevic (Sparta Prague, both to Vitesse).

Fons Spooren, the former managing director of PSV, was sentenced to 27 months in jail for having sex with underage male prostitutes. He was also convicted of attempted assault because he knew he was HIV-positive and failed to use condoms. Before being arrested Spooren was the main candidate to succeed retiring PSV chairman Harry Van Raaij.

Marc Overmars has announced his retirement because of recurrent knee problems. The international winger, who won 86 caps for Holland, terminated his contract with Barcelona, saying he could no longer play at the highest level.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

Back at Standard...Wamberto

BELGIUM

Brazilians to the fore

BRAZILIANS FIGURED LARGE in the build-up to the new season, with Genk indebted to one for their shock defeat of Borussia Dortmund in the InterToto Cup, and title contenders Standard Liege signing a pair of their own.

Genk beat the Bundesliga side on away goals after a 2-2 aggregate draw. Having lost 1-0 at home, they completed a thoroughly deserved 2-1 victory in the Westfalenstadion, courtesy of two headed goals from Igor De Camargo.

Wamberto, a 29-year-old striker, is returning to Standard after a six-year absence, during which he appeared for Ajax and, briefly, Mons. He is joined by compatriot left-back Michel Garbini, who has signed from Atletico Mineiro.

Club Brugge cruised through to the Champions League third qualifying round after beating Bulgaria's Lokomotiv Plovdiv 6-0 on aggregate. Croatian forward Bosko Balaban scored two goals in both legs, suggesting that the effects of the departure of Peruvian striker Andres Mendoza to Ukraine's Metalurh Donetsk may not be as bad as feared.

Beveren, beaten by Brugge in the Cup Final last May, have been most active on the transfer front. Goalkeeper Mark Volders arrived from Lommel as expected understudy to Ivorian Barry Boubacar Copa, and Icelandic defender Olafur Skulason signed from Arsenal as replacement for another former Arsenal central defender, Igors Stepanovs, who has moved to Switzerland to join Grasshopper.

Beveren also learned they will be without Ivorian top scorer Constant Kaiper for six months after he tore a calf muscle in training.

Hugo Broos, coach of champions Anderlecht, said he would not be rushed into signing a replacement for Finland defender Hannu Tihinen, who broke a bone in his right foot during a pre-season friendly, or Glen De Boeck, who has had knee surgery. Both face lengthy lay-offs.

Nicholas Harling

Del Neri out in two months

PORTUGAL

AFTER A HIGHLY successful 2003-04 season, FC Porto's new campaign could hardly have started in more turbulent fashion. Luigi Del Neri, picked to fill Jose Mourinho's shoes as coach, lasted only two months with the European and domestic champions. Even before a ball was kicked in the Superliga, the Italian was sacked for breaching the club's code of conduct and replaced by Spaniard Victor Fernandez.

Del Neri was left to reflect on his two big mistakes in his brief time under Porto president Pinto da Costa – arriving late to the club's training camp, and a row with Da Costa over transfer dealings.

Fernandez, a former Zaragoza, Betis and Celta Vigo boss, arrives with a strong track record, though without a League title. If he is going to achieve this with Porto, he will have to do it without Deco and Ricardo Carvalho, two of the players who made Porto such a force in Europe last season. But he does have two new players – Brazilian Diego from Santos and Ricardo Quaresma from Barcelona – who are among the most promising youngsters in the world.

Porto's main title contenders will be, as usual, Benfica and Sporting Lisbon, who both also have new managers. Despite a disappointing Euro 2004, Giovanni Trapattoni still appealed to Benfica president Luis Filipe Vieira, who wanted an experienced man to succeed fan favourite Jose Antonio Camacho. The Italian will be given time to get things right at last season's League runners-up, but not too much given that the club have not won the title since 1994.

Sporting chose the fairly inexperienced Jose Peseiro, who spent last year at Real Madrid as an assistant to Carlos Queiroz. While he has yet to capture a trophy, Peseiro is known to be a 'players' manager' and will rely on his leadership skills to make up for the lack of depth in his squad. The main signing was young midfielder Hugo Viana, back at the club on loan following an unsuccessful spell at Newcastle.

Pedro Pinto

Costly mistakes...Luigi Del Neri

SWITZERLAND

Basle vow to ban 'hate' fans

Basle are threatening to ban a group of fans who have vowed to wage a hate campaign against controversial new signing Mladen Petric.

The dual national Croat/Swiss striker, signed from Grasshopper, antagonised Basle fans when he burned the club's flag during the victory celebrations when Grasshopper pipped their rivals for the 2002-03 League title.

Now a group have said they will disrupt matches in which Petric plays, but Basle vice-president Gigi Oeri, who negotiated the player's transfer, threatened to ban them from the stadium.

Petric was one of five new signings either completed or in the pipeline as Basle dug into their transfer kitty in a bid to repeat their successful Champions League run of two years ago.

Cesar Carignano, a 22-year-old striker signed from Colon Sante Fe, takes their Argentinian contingent to four, with another already lined up.

Basle recorded a rousing 6-0 victory over Aarau on the opening day of the domestic League campaign. The champions followed up with a 1-1 draw at home to Neuchatel Xamax and a 2-1 win at Servette to lead the embryonic table on goal difference from Zurich.

Servette, whose 17 new players include veteran Romania striker Viorel Moldovan, started the season with a three-point deficit imposed for licensing irregularities during 2003-04.

Brazilian striker Neri hit a hat-trick as Young Boys, runners-up last term, also started well with a 6-1 home win against his old club, Schaffhausen. Ironically it was Neri's 17 goals last season that helped Schaffhausen to promotion, after a 41-year absence from the top flight.

Young Boys had less luck in the Champions League, losing 5-2 on aggregate to Red Star Belgrade in the second qualifying round.

Grasshopper have signed Argentinian Xavier Villarreal from Boca Juniors to bolster their shaky defence.

Ivar von Rulach

AUSTRIA

Rapid set out stall

Rapid Wien were the only unbeaten side after four League rounds, though they trailed leaders Grazer AK by a point. Rapid's new Czech striking duo Marek Kincl and Tomas Dosek have already been among the goals, and the team's good early form suggests they will be Grazer's toughest challengers for the title.

Kincl joined Rapid on loan from Russian League pacesetters Zenit St Petersburg, while Dosek arrived from Sparta Prague.

Pasching were also going well, in third, having invested heavily in players over the summer. The newcomers include Thomas Flogel (Hearts), Edi Glieder (Schalke) and Nino Bule (Hajduk Split).

Harry Miltner

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Shels crack on

Shelbourne became the first Eircom League club to reach the third qualifying round of the Champions League after beating Hajduk Split 4-3 on aggregate. The victory earned Shels a money-spinning fixture against Deportivo La Coruna.

Cork City's stirring run in the InterToto Cup ended with defeat by Nantes in the quarter-finals.

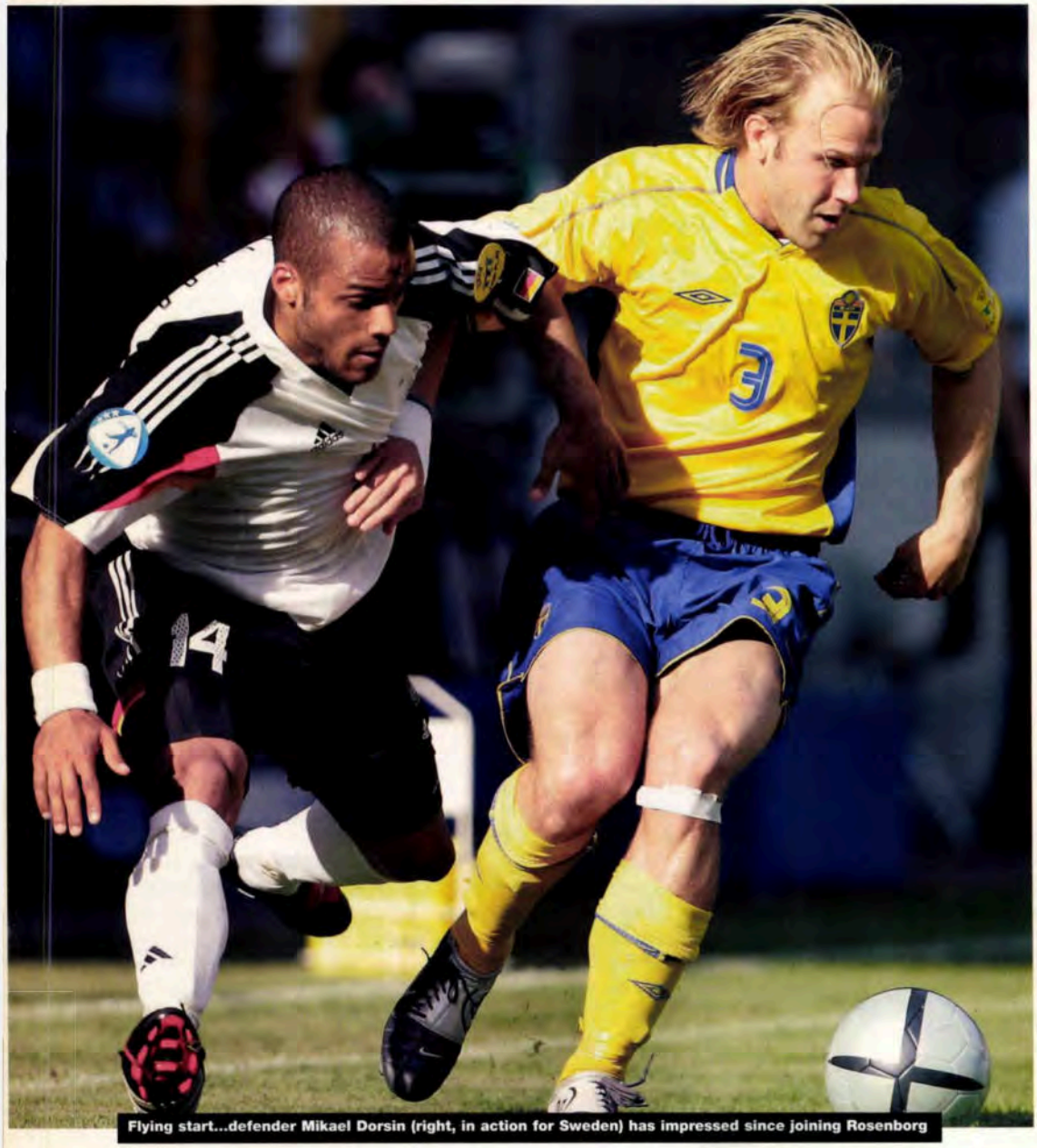
The board of Bohemians lost patience with manager Stephen Kenny after the side suffered yet another home defeat, this time to Levadia Tallinn in the UEFA Cup.

The sacking was tough on Kenny, who had won the League in his first full season in charge at Dalymount Park and finished second to Shelbourne last season. However, Bohs' home form has been woeful this season, leaving them well off the championship pace.

That continues to be set by Shelbourne, with surprise package Drogheda United their closest challengers.

Two days before Kenny was sacked former Bohemians manager Roddy Collins took the reins at struggling Dublin City. Collins's name had been linked with every vacancy in Ireland since being sacked by English Third Division side Carlisle United a year ago.

Sean Creedon



Flying start...defender Mikael Dorsin (right, in action for Sweden) has impressed since joining Rosenborg

Rosenborg return to top

NORWAY

NORMAL SERVICE WAS resumed in the League when Rosenborg, champions for the past 12 years, took over top spot just after the three-week summer break. Their 3-1 home win over bottom side Frederikstad put them a point clear of long-time leaders Tromso, who were beaten at home for the first time this season, 3-0 by promoted Ham-Kam.

Rosenborg coach Ola By Riise had come in for much criticism after the team's indifferent start to the campaign, but he has steadied the ship and also made two promising new signings. Swedish full-back Mikael Dorsin, bought from Hammarby, impressed in his debut game, a 1-1 draw at Viking, while ex-Skeid player Daniel Braaten has plenty of flair and attacking ability. To help balance the books, Rosenborg have sold striker Azar Karadas to Benfica.

Molde have sold their most valuable player, Magne Hoseth, despite struggling near the bottom of the table. The national team midfielder signed for FC Copenhagen for £1million.

Valerenga have brought in Norway forward Steffen Iversen from Wolverhampton until the end of the season after struggling to score goals. He is joined at the club by Iceland goalkeeper Arni Arason, signed from Manchester City, while Iversen's national team-mate, midfielder Martin Andresen, is back at Stabaek after some months with Blackburn.

Sigurd Odegaard

DENMARK

Backe to earth for Hans

Hans Backe was voted Danish manager of the year after leading FC Copenhagen to the Superliga title. However, news of the award did not help much as his team made a stuttering start to the new season.

Copenhagen were held to 2-2 draws in their first two fixtures – away to promoted Silkeborg and at home to Esbjerg – leaving them immediately four points adrift of Midtjylland, the only club to start with two victories.

Copenhagen were bolstered, though, by the signing of Sweden midfielder Tobias Linderoth from Everton.

Jim Holden

FINLAND

Alexei to Lecce

The long-running transfer saga of HJK Helsinki and Finland midfielder Alexei Eremenko Jnr finally ended when he secured a move to Lecce in Italy.

The youngster has been the dominant player in the Finnish League for some time and is seen by many as the natural successor to Jari Litmanen in the national team. HJK replaced Eremenko with Raffaele De Gregorio, a New Zealand international. He had an unhappy start, however, being sent off in his first League game.

Finland defender Janne Saarinen made history after moving from 1860 Munich to Denmark's FC Copenhagen. In doing so he became the first player to appear in all four Nordic leagues, having also played in Finland (HJK Helsinki), Sweden (IFK Gothenburg) and Norway (Rosenborg).

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

FH lead close race

As last season, the championship race has been close, with FH leading by two points from IBV with six games remaining, and Fylkir a point further back.

Perennial strugglers Fram and fellow relegation candidates Grindavik both fired their coaches – Ion Geoglau and Zeljko Sankovic, respectively.

Cup holders IA and beaten finalists FH both progressed to the second phase of the UEFA Cup qualifiers in some style. However, KR went out of the Champions League on away goals to Irish side Shelbourne.

Rab Christie

ESTONIA

Levadia march on

Levadia Tallinn were still unbeaten and six points clear of closest challengers Flora Tallinn, the defending champions, after 16 games. The leaders took a potentially decisive step towards the title when beating nine-man Flora 2-0 away in early July. The hosts had Joel Lindpere and League top scorer Vjatseslav Zahhovaiko sent off. The latter was suspended for five games.

Levadia carried over their impressive form into the UEFA Cup, beating Irish side Bohemians 3-1 on aggregate.

Flora and Estonian national team goalkeeping coach Valdemaras Martinkenas has died at 39 in a drowning accident while in Slovenia with his club for a Champions League qualifier against Gorica. Martinkenas was caught in strong currents while swimming in a mountain river.

Flora lost the tie 7-3 on aggregate.

Andres Must

WALES

Moran drug ban scandal

Rhyl striker Andy Moran, last season's League top scorer, has been banned for seven and a half months after testing positive for nandrolone.

Moran, whose 27 goals fired Rhyl to their first championship title, failed the test after a match against Afan Lido in March. A second test sample also proved positive.

The delay in the full story of the case coming to light and, as a result, in the striker being punished has caused a scandal. Allegations have been made of an attempted cover-up of the second test result by a senior FA official since the original test and follow-up occurred during Wales' Euro 2004 challenge to UEFA over the failed drugs test by Russia's Yegor Titov after the first leg of the countries' qualifying play-off.

Rumblings have also been heard from Rhyl's title challengers last season, Total Network Solutions, since Moran was allowed to play during the crucial final games of the championship, which Rhyl won by a point.

Without Moran, Rhyl fell 7-1 on aggregate to Latvia's Skonto Riga in the Champions League first qualifying round. Haverfordwest County, who, like Rhyl were European debutants, went down 4-1 on aggregate to FH of Iceland in the UEFA Cup, and TNS also exited that competition by the same score, to Osters of Sweden.

Mel Thomas

NORTHERN IRELAND

Healy sets scoring record

David Healy became Northern Ireland's record international scorer when hitting two goals in the final game of the Caribbean tour, a 3-0 win against Trinidad & Tobago. These took his tally to 14, beating the previous record of 13 held by Colin Clarke and Billy Gillespie.

Healy scored in both the other tour games – a 1-1 draw with Barbados and a 2-0 win over St Kitts & Nevis.

National team-mate and fellow striker Andy Smith has joined him at club level, moving to Preston in England from Glentoran for £150,000.

On the field, Glentoran won their first European tie for 23 years when beating Finns Allianssi 4-3 on aggregate in the UEFA Cup first qualifying round. Linfield went down 1-0 both home and away to HJK Helsinki in the Champions League, while Portadown lost 4-2 on aggregate to Zalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania in the UEFA Cup.

Cliftonville have appointed Liam Beckett as manager to succeed Marty Tabb. The former Coleraine defender was in charge of First Division clubs Moyola Park and Ballymoney United last season.

Roy Kitson

Celtic recruit...Henri Camara

Henrik out, Henri in

SCOTLAND

CELTIC MANAGER Martin O'Neill has recruited Wolverhampton's Senegal forward Henri Camara to help fill the void left by the departure of Henrik Larsson to Barcelona. Camara has initially joined on a year's loan with a view to making the move permanent.

There was little other transfer activity at Parkhead, in contrast to Ibrox, where Rangers boss Alex McLeish has worked tirelessly over the summer to rebuild his squad following the trophyless 2003-04 campaign.

McLeish has drafted in Jean-Alain Boumsong (Auxerre), Nacho Novo (Dundee), Alex Rae (Wolves) and Marvin Andrews (Livingston). Meanwhile, he has released the De Boer twins, Michael Mols, Craig Moore and Mikel Arteta.

Hearts have signed Manchester United's Michael Stewart on a one-year deal. Jimmy Calderwood has left Dunfermline to take charge of under-achieving Aberdeen, with former Celtic defender David Hay taking his place.

Alan Fairley

Lone man Lukic takes his leave

SWEDEN

KJELL JONEVRET is the new coach of defending champions Djurgardens after Zoran Lukic resigned following several run-ins with his players as the team dropped out of contention to retain the title.

Lukic had taken sole charge of the team this season, having won the League for the past two years when working in tandem with Soren Akerby. However, the new arrangement was never plain sailing, and the bust-ups with the likes of midfielder Abgar Barsom and Dutch forward Geert Den Ouden compounded indifferent League form.

As the team continued to falter, Jonevret was brought in as sporting director, but with a menacing hint that he might be allowed to have a say in team tactics and selection. Lukic read the signs and quit.

Djurgardens, who trailed leaders Malmo by 12 points at the start of August, suffered another blow when losing national team goalkeeper Andreas Isaksson to Rennes in France.

Although Malmo were on top they must already be regretting loaning out forward Marcus Rosenberg to championship rivals Halmstads. Rosenberg has shown goalscoring form lately, including the winner in the 2-1 win over Hammarby that gave Halmstads pole position for a few days at the end of July.

Malmo lured back Sweden midfielder Daniel Andersson from Italy's Ancona, reuniting him with older brother Patrik, the former national team captain. Midfielder Mikael Nilsson has left Halmstads for Southampton.

Pentti Hietanen

Way out...Lukic had run-ins with his players

Del Bosque putting more buzz in Besiktas

TURKEY

Flying a new flag...Besiktas president Yildirim Demiroren greets coach Del Bosque

IF TURKISH FOOTBALL wanted to draw a veil over last year's suspicion-riddled Super League, it has got off to a good start by electing a new federation president – Levent Bicakci replacing long-serving Haluk Ulusoy – and wowing the public with a series of high-profile transfers.

Arguably the biggest move involved a coach. Former Real Madrid boss Vicente Del Bosque has replaced Mircea Lucescu at Besiktas, who could finish only third last term after being odds-on to win the championship at the winter break.

Buoyed by the confidence expressed in him, Del Bosque rolled up his sleeves and pushed the 2003 champions through a high-energy training schedule, a far cry from the pre-season pampered Turkish players are used to. He even had the courage to issue an ultimatum to fan favourite Sergen Yalcin to shape up or ship out. Although Sergen can be a spellbinding performer, he is rarely fit enough to last even half a game.

Brazilian midfielder Alex, fresh from captaining Brazil to victory at the Copa America, was the headline signing at champions Fenerbahce. But despite the capture of the Cruzeiro star, the Fener ship is not happy. The board were reportedly on the brink of firing German coach Christoph Daum for criticising the running of the club to his homeland media.

However, the Daum-Fener spat is nothing compared to the situation at financially-troubled Galatasaray, who are desperate to reverse their slide to a sixth-place finish last term. Coach Gheorghe Hagi was reportedly despondent and on the verge of a major clash with the board even before the season started, and the club are hardly proving tempting for new blood.

To make matters worse, Istanbul Technical University issued a report warning that Gala's newly-restored Ali Sami Yen stadium was a liability in the event of an earthquake, to which Istanbul is prone. The government has ordered the club to strengthen the stands, raising the likelihood Gala will have to remain at their temporary home, the Olympic stadium, for some time. Gala blamed a lot of their failure last year on the 'unsuitable' arena.

Suna Erdem

CROATIA

Kranjcar fights off Katanec challenge

Zlatko Kranjcar, a League title winner with both Dinamo Zagreb and Zagreb, has been appointed national team coach.

Kranjcar stepped up after a concerted media campaign touting his candidacy against that of former Slovenian national team coach Srecko Katanec, the other main contender.

At one stage it appeared that Katanec, who led Slovenia at the 2002 World Cup, had accepted an offer of the post from federation president Vlatko Markovic. However, he apparently changed his mind because of the negative campaigning.

There were nationalist undertones to the anti-Katanec lobby, with some critics saying they would not stand for a Slovenian taking the post.

Kranjcar won the Double with Dinamo in 1996 and the League with Zagreb two years ago after a sparkling playing career with the former and Rapid Wien. He succeeds Otto Baric, for whom the writing was on the wall after Croatia's first-round exit at Euro 2004.

Kranjcar will be assisted by Martin Novoselac, whose replacement as Under-21 coach is Slaven Bilic, the former national team defender.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Celje to host qualifiers

Slovenia's home World Cup qualifiers will be played in Celje, in the east of the country, after a proposed new stadium construction in the capital, Ljubljana, fell through.

Meanwhile, the federation has stepped in to stop coaches operating without licences. The situation came to a head on the first day of the new season when FC Ljubljana coach Safet Hadzic was named as a player for the home match against Zagorje as a way of getting round the fact he did not have the appropriate coaching documentation. However, Hadzic was not allowed to remain on the bench, being banished to the stands.

Across the city, Olimpija were forced to postpone their opening two League matches after 12 players became ill after picking up a skin infection. The cause of the infection was tracked down to the club's stadium, areas of which were subsequently disinfected.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

National side switch venues

The national team are set to play home World Cup qualifiers at the renovated Grbavica stadium in Sarajevo because they believe the city's Kosevo arena is cursed. Part of the Kosevo was used as a temporary graveyard at the height of the four-year siege of Sarajevo between 1992 and 1996.

Zdravko Reic

ISRAEL

Berkovic sidelined

National coach Avraham Grant has said veteran midfielder Eyal Berkovic will not figure in his plans for the World Cup qualifying campaign. The 32-year-old, who plays in England, with Portsmouth, has appeared 78 times for his country, scoring nine goals.

Last season's League runners-up Maccabi Tel Aviv reached the Champions League third qualifying round after a 1-0 aggregate win over HJK Helsinki. They next meet PAOK Salonika, while champions Maccabi Haifa, who qualified for the third round automatically, face Norwegian champions Rosenborg.

Derek Fattal

MACEDONIA

Euro wipeout

Macedonian teams suffered a whitewash in European competition. Pobeda lost 4-2 on aggregate to Pyunik Yerevan of Armenia in the Champions League qualifiers, while Sloga and Sileks both exited the UEFA Cup at the first hurdle – 8-1 to Cyprus's Omonia and 2-1 to Slovenia's Maribor respectively.

Vardar did make it through to the third round of the InterToto Cup, but then crashed 9-1 on aggregate to Schalke. The Skopje club gained some consolation when beating Pobeda 2-1 in the domestic Cup.

Michel Stojmanovski

MALTA

Double blow for Sliema

Sliema Wanderers crashed out of the Champions League, losing 6-1 on aggregate to FBK Kaunas in the first qualifying round. They have also lost the services of striker Michael Mifsud, now at Lillestrom in Norway.

Mifsud's replacement is namesake Adrian, from Hibernians, while national team-mate Claude Mattocks has arrived on a one-year loan from Floriana.

Birkirkara, who have confirmed Stephen Azzopardi as coach, lost 5-4 on aggregate to Albanians Partizani in the UEFA Cup. European debutants Marsaxlokk, now under former Valletta coach Atanas Marinov, also exited the competition, losing 3-0 to Primorje of Slovenia. The Southseasiders were boosted, however, by the arrival of Sliema defender Carlo Mamo in a three-year deal.

Hibernians defender Adrian Pulis was called up to the national squad for the first time for the World Cup warm-up against the Faroe Islands.

Domenico Aquilina

Called to the colours...Rivaldo is optimistic about life with new club Olympiakos

Clean-up time at home

GREECE

AFTER THE UNBELIEVABLE Euro 2004 triumph, Greece is looking to clean up its act in the domestic game. For a start, the government is pressing ahead with new draft legislation to curb crowd violence. The bill will allow stiffer penalties to be imposed on hooligans and is expected to force clubs to install surveillance cameras.

Meanwhile, the Development Ministry has delivered a series of proposals aimed at restructuring club soccer. These include a warning to clubs that their operating licences will be revoked if they cannot meet strict financial criteria.

The standout summer transfer was Rivaldo's move to Olympiakos on a two-year deal. The Brazilian former World Player of the Year has been without a club since leaving Cruzeiro in February, but is optimistic about his new side's potential. "Nothing is forbidden in soccer," said Rivaldo. "Who thought Greece would win the European Championship, so why could we not manage to win the European Cup with Olympiakos?"

The club finished runners-up in the League last term, after seven straight titles, but were handed an automatic group place in the Champions League.

Lou Economopoulos

Back with Partizan...Sasa Ilic

New boys' silver lining

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

THE NATIONAL UNDER-21s provided a much-needed boost by finishing runners-up in the European Championship in Germany. Many of the side are expected to step up to bolster a senior squad that has fallen to 48th in the FIFA rankings.

The Under-21s' achievement also ensured qualification for the Olympic Games, but after a classic club-versus-country row the squad that left for Athens was not at full strength.

Partizan Belgrade have been the most active in the transfer market, signing Ivan Tomic from Rayo Vallecano, Nenad Brnovic and Under-21 international Branimir Petrovic (both Zeta Golubovci), taking back Sasa Ilic after half a season on loan at Celta Vigo, and also seeing the return of Dragan Ciric after seven years abroad. Departees were Vladimir Ivic (Borussia Monchengladbach) and Ivica Iliev (new Serie A side Messina).

Vojvodina teenager Milos Krasic sealed a move to CSKA Moscow, while Milos Maric (Zeta Golubovci), one of the heroes of the national Under-21 team, joined Olympiakos.

Red Star sold central defender and captain Nemanja Vidic to Moscow Spartak and midfielder Dragan Mladenovic to Rangers. Their replacements also come from the Under-21s – Milan Bisevac (Zeleznik) and Dragan Stancic (OFK Belgrade).

Red Star, with their 1991 European Cup-winning coach Ljupko Petrovic back in charge, reached the Champions League third qualifying round with a 5-2 aggregate victory over Swiss side Young Boys. They face PSV Eindhoven for a place in the group stage.

Zoran Damjanovic, a lawyer and businessman, has been appointed FA general secretary. The 47-year-old replaces Branko Bulatovic, who was assassinated in March.

Vladimir Novak

Spartak splash out

RUSSIA

MOSCOW SPARTAK, the struggling former champions, have made a spectacular bid to improve their standing in the second half of the season, breaking the Russian transfer record to sign 20-year-old River Plate forward Fernando Cavenaghi and making several other major acquisitions.

But with Spartak a full 13 points behind the leading pack of five at the start of August, Italian coach Nevio Scala is facing a tough battle to push his side up the table and in the process save his job.

Cavenaghi, top scorer for River Plate when they won this year's Argentinian closing championship, was signed for £7.7million. He is joined at Spartak by compatriot defender Clemente Rodriguez, from Boca Juniors, Russian national team midfielder Dmitri Alenichev, returning to the club from FC Porto, Red Star Belgrade midfielder and captain Nemanja Vidic, and Czech Republic defender Martin Jiranek.

With two months left to play in the championship, the top five were separated by just two points. Zenit St Petersburg led the field, with three Moscow sides – Torpedo, Lokomotiv and CSKA – and Kryliya Sovetov the other title contenders.

Only one of the five, Zenit, is now coached by a foreigner, Czech Vlastimil Petrzela. CSKA's Portuguese coach Artur Jorge lasted only six months at the helm after failing to add "European flavour" to the defending champions' style of play. Jorge's replacement is Valeri Gazzayev, who was sensationally fired last winter despite having won the title.

Meanwhile, Dinamo Moscow also replaced their Czech coach, Jaroslav Hrebik, with coaching staff member Viktor Bondarenko as the club struggled near the relegation zone.

Victor Gusev

Sky's the limit...record signing Fernando Cavenaghi hopes to bring his goalscoring touch to Moscow

Home boy...Heinz rejected Russia move

Stars stay put

CZECH REPUBLIC

THE NEW SEASON got under way in early August after a surprisingly quiet summer in the transfer market.

The expected exodus from champions Banik Ostrava has so far failed to materialise. Although Rene Bolf has moved to Auxerre, and goalkeeper Jan Lastuvka has joined Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk, other key squad members stayed put. Marek Heinz, the League's leading scorer last term and who impressed at Euro 2004, was set to at least start the season at home, having turned down a lucrative move to Russia.

Sparta Prague also went into the new season with a more familiar look than expected. Inspirational captain Karel Poborsky was persuaded to postpone his retirement, signing a new one-year deal, while national team reserve keeper Jaromir Blazek has also stayed on. Montenegrin striker Igor Gluscevic, a disappointment last term, has left for Portugal, while national team defender Tomas Hubschman has joined Lastuvka at Shakhtar. An addition is midfielder Jan Simak, who went AWOL last season while playing in the Bundesliga.

Slavia's significant debts have limited them to just one new signing – Slovan Liberec midfielder Miroslav Holenak – while forward Tomas Dosek has moved to Rapid Wien.

Slovacko, formerly known as Synot, have even bigger problems. Although they were spared a forced demotion because of their part in a bribery scandal, they began the new season with a 12-point deficit

Sam Beckwith

UKRAINE

Shakhtar set the pace

Shakhtar Donetsk showed their determination to get over last season's championship collapse by beating title-holders and arch-rivals Kyiv Dynamo 2-0 away on the opening day of the new campaign. They then beat Chornomorets, Dnipro and Metalurh Donetsk – three other potential championship rivals.

Shakhtar's squad has had some expensive new additions, the club breaking the Ukrainian transfer record by paying £14million to Brescia for Brazilian midfielder Matuzalem. Czech Republic defender Tomas Hubschman is another new arrival, from Sparta Prague for £2.5m, along with Romanian central defender Cosmin Barcauan (Dinamo Bucharest) for £1m.

Dynamo's main acquisitions are Brazilian defender Rodolfo (Fluminense) and Serbian midfielder Nenad Ninkovic (Cucaricki). Metalurh Donetsk have brought in Peru forward Andres Mendoza (Club Brugge), Georgia striker Georgi Gakhokidze (Dinamo Tbilisi) and Ivorian defender Igor Lolo (Beveren).

Elsewhere, Ecuadorean midfielder Peter Mercado has joined Kryvbas, while Vorskla have signed two Shakhtar defenders, Anton Monakhov and Maxym Horbko, plus midfielder Vladislav Prudius from Russia's Rostov.

The major coaching changes are: Slavoljub Muslin (Red Star Belgrade to Metalurh Donetsk), Anatoli Piskovets (Ukrainian national women's team to Kryvbas) and Valentyn Khodukin (Kryvbas to Karpaty Lviv). Also, Vyacheslav Grozny has resigned at Arsenal Kyiv and is replaced by Olexander Baranov, who has been coaching in Finland. Metalurh Zaporizhya have hired ex-Shakhtar boss Valeriy Yaremchenko, while Volodymyr Muntian has replaced his former Dynamo team-mate Volodymyr Lozinskyi at Vorskla.

Oleg Zadernovsky

POLAND

Wisla face Real mountain

The Champions League ambitions of Wisla Krakow owner Boguslaw Cupial were dealt a blow when his team were drawn against Real Madrid in the third qualifying round.

Wisla have won the Polish League four times in the past six seasons, and Cupial has shown his determination for the club to move on a stage – reaching the Champions League group phase – by bringing in a raft of new players. These include Amica Wronki midfielder Marek Zienczuk and forward Tomasz Dawidowski, and forward Marcin Kuzba (returning from Olympiakos). But though Wisla demolished WIT Georgia 11-2 on aggregate in the second qualifying round, the Madrid hurdle looks too high.

Cracovia Krakow, who took their top-division place after thrashing Gornik Polkowice 8-0 on aggregate in a relegation/promotion play-off, won their opening-day fixture 5-2 away to fellow new boys Zaglebie. It is the first time for 20 years that Cracovia, winners of the inaugural Polish championship in 1921, have played in the First Division. They are the favourite team of Pope John Paul II, who used to watch their games as a young priest in Krakow.

The FA has decided that the League will be increased to 16 teams next season, having only just reduced it to 14 since the 2003-04 campaign.

The main transfers involving Polish players include Sebastian Olszar (Portsmouth to Polonia Warsaw), Bartosz Karwan (Hertha Berlin to Legia Warsaw), Mariusz Jop (Wisla Krakow to FC Moscow), Bartosz Bosacki (Lech Poznan to Nurnberg) and Arkadiusz Klimek (Panionios to Wisla Plock).

Dariusz Kurowski

ROMANIA

Licence to continue

Three First Division clubs were granted licences for the new season despite having failed to meet the conditions to receive them. Apulum Alba Iulia, Otelul Galati and newly-promoted Sportul Studentesc Bucharest have combined tax debts of more than £2million, players have not received their salaries for months and their stadiums fall below minimum standards. However, the clubs were told they could receive their licence and thus kick off the domestic season after pledging they would resolve such issues.

The lack of money has claimed its first managerial victim. Poli AEK coach Basarab Panduru quit just days before the season start after the club failed to produce cash for new players. The new man is ex-Steaua boss Dumitru Dumitriu.

Radu Timofte

SLOVAKIA

Zilina eye four in a row

Zilina, champions for the past three seasons, began the new one as hot favourites to retain the title. Coach Ladislav Jurkemik, who has resigned as national Under-21 coach to concentrate on his work at the club, has strengthened an already potent attack by signing Dubnica's Adam Nemec and Peter Kiska.

The defending champions have already bagged one trophy, the Super Cup, by beating Artmedia Bratislava, formerly Artmedia Petrzalka.

Banska Bystrica, likely to provide the only real opposition to Zilina, boosted their firepower by signing Martin Fabus, joint League top scorer in 2002-03 when with Zilina.

Pavol Stracansky

HUNGARY

Mayhem in Miskolc

The run-up to the new season was mired in controversy as two clubs battled to represent the north-eastern city of Miskolc in the top flight. Although DVTK Diosgyor won promotion last season, they were refused top-flight status because of crippling debts. Then, in an unprecedented move, the owners of Balaton, the Siofok-based club who finished fourth in the top division last term, decided to move operations to Miskolc, 250km away, and form a new club, Diosgyor BFC, in DVTK's place.

DVTK fans mounted vehement protests, and it was still unclear which club would take part in the top division days before the season was due to start.

Champions Ferencvaros have sold star striker Zoltan Gera to West Bromwich for £1.5million to pay off tax debts.

Peterjon Cresswell

BELARUS

Dinamo on title track

Dinamo Minsk were on track to take their first League title since 1997 as they topped the table with 37 points from 15 games – the season's halfway point.

Their championship-winning credentials were in evidence during the recent 5-0 thrashing of Belshina, with Czech forward David Zoubek scoring twice.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Stoichkov takes the reins

Sign here, please...Stoichkov meets the Bulgarian fans

BULGARIA

HRISTO STOICHKOV has taken the national team helm ahead of the 2006 World Cup qualifiers following Bulgaria's poor showing at Euro 2004. The 38-year-old former international striker agreed a two-year deal after Plamen Markov, in charge during the side's three defeats in Portugal, turned down a new contract.

Nikolai Rusev quit top-flight debutants OFK Nesebar days before the season started because the club would not offer him a long-term contract. His replacement is ex-Chernomorets player Ivan Ilchev.

Champions Lokomotiv Plovdiv beat Cup-holders Litex Lovech 1-0 in the Super Cup.

Michael Bowesfield

Calm down...Bianchi gets to grips with goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri, Clemente Rodriguez and Jose Calvo during the Libertadores Cup

Bianchi bows out as Boca blow it

ARGENTINA

BOCA JUNIORS, who won the season's opening championship, ended the 2003-04 campaign with a disastrous week, during which they lost the closing championship, the Libertadores Cup Final and coach Carlos Bianchi.

Their failure in the domestic League stemmed from playing largely reserve sides in their last three games as they concentrated their efforts on retaining the Libertadores. Of those last remaining potential nine points, they won only two, allowing River Plate to finish four points clear. Their arch-rivals' success meant that Leo Astrada, a former captain of River, won the title in his first season as a coach.

Bianchi announced his departure immediately after Boca's Libertadores Cup Final defeat, on penalties by Colombia's Once Caldas, four days after their last domestic League match.

"It is the best decision for the good of the club, and I thank the fans for their unconditional support," he said.

Bianchi's contract was not due to finish until the end of 2005, sparking rumours he had fallen out with club president Mauricio Macri. But the coach, who suggested he might retire completely, insisted he was leaving on good terms. Bianchi cited other reasons for his resignation, saying: "I am a bit tired and the time has come to think of other things – my family, for example."

Bianchi, nicknamed 'Viceroy', because of his resemblance to an 18th-century Spanish viceroy of Argentina, won nine titles in all with Boca. They included three Libertadores Cups and two World Club Cups, gained in two spells at the club – 1998 to 2001 and then from 2003.

His replacement is former Boca player Miguel Brindisi, most recently in charge of Lanus and who has also coached Independiente, Huracan, Racing Club and Ecuador's Barcelona. The 53-year-old not only has a hard act to follow but also must cope with the fact Boca have just sold three key defenders – Clemente Rodriguez (to Moscow Spartak), Nicolas Burdisso (Internazionale) and Luis Perea (Atletico Madrid).

River have similar potential problems, having sold the spine of their team – defender Horacio Ameli (to America of Mexico), midfielder Claudio Husain (Tigres, Mexico) and forward Fernando Cavenaghi (Moscow Spartak). The latter, along with Maximiliano Lopez and newcomer Jose Sand, ensured River finished top scorers in the championship.

Astrada's success, at just 34, continues River's long tradition of winning titles under former players. He joins a distinguished list that includes Jose Maria Milella, Angel Labruna, Alfredo Di Stefano, Daniel Passarella, Americo Gallego and Ramon Diaz.

Talleres Cordoba, the early closing championship leaders, were relegated, despite finishing third, a point behind Boca. In Argentina, relegation ranking is determined by average points gained over three seasons. Talleres had performed so poorly over preceding campaigns they were forced into a play-off for survival, losing out to promotion candidates Argentinos Juniors.

Atletico Rafaela also went down after losing their play-off with Huracan, while Chacarita Juniors and Nueva Chicago were relegated automatically as the bottom two in the averages table. Instituto of Cordoba and Almagro are the other promoted sides.

Eric Weil

Federation feels the heat

MEXICO

IT HAS BEEN a very hot summer for the federation, beset by criticism over its management of the League.

The sudden redrawing of Mexico's top division has come under a particularly harsh spotlight. Weeks before the opening championship was due to kick-off, the federation decided the top flight would feature only 18 clubs, reversing its much-criticised expansion to 20 teams two years ago.

In order to achieve this, Gallas Blancos and Irapuato were abruptly told they would be excluded, citing their poor financial state as reason.

The federation then announced that the league stage of the opening campaign would be played over just three months, instead of the normal four, because of the pressures from other competitions. To fit in all the games in such a short period, clubs will have to play three matches a week on four occasions.

The concerns about the effects on quality of such a congested fixture list have been heightened by the fact that 30 players, both Mexican and South American, will be absent from domestic competition because of Olympic and World Cup qualifying commitments. Guadalajara have seven players alone in that situation.

Argentinian Oscar Ruggeri has replaced Dutchman Leo Beenhakker as coach of America and brought in two compatriot players – Claudio Lopez and Horacio Azueli – as well as Brazilian Djalminha in a bid for that elusive title. Out of the door is the controversial Cuauhtemoc Blanco, who has joined Veracruz.

Guadalajara have 'kicked upstairs' coach Hans Westerhoff, appointing him sports director and promoting assistant and former national team midfielder Benjamin Galindo in his place.

Because of the League restructuring, only one side were promoted. They are Dorados from Culiacan in Sinaloa state, where baseball has traditionally been the dominant sport. However, Dorados, who turned professional only three years ago, have been attracting record crowds and have now bought national team striker Jared Borgetti from Santos Laguna.

Carlos Ramirez

New hero...Mexico striker Jared Borgetti has joined promoted Dorados

ROUND-UP

URUGUAY

● A players' strike over unpaid salaries has disrupted domestic competition for the second time this year. The dispute caused the championship's classification stage to be suspended with one round remaining. The season start was delayed over the same issue.

Danubio were already assured of taking top spot in the classification stage, booking them a place in next year's Libertadores Cup, since they were eight points clear of closest challengers Cerrito.

The top 10 qualify for the opening and closing championships. Danubio and Cerrito are definitely through, as are Penarol, Nacional and Liverpool.

PARAGUAY

● Cerro Porteno won the opening championship, finishing three points ahead of defending champions Libertad, to gain a place in next year's Libertadores Cup.

ECUADOR

● Barcelona, leading the closing championship on goal difference after seven games, have appointed their fourth coach of the season, Argentinian Pedro Marcheta.

COLOMBIA

● Jorge Agudelo, who scored the Libertadores Cup-winning penalty for Once Caldas against Boca Juniors, has been banned for six months for failing a drugs test.

Independiente Medellin beat city rivals Atletico Nacional in the opening championship Final to book their place in next year's Libertadores Cup. Independiente won the first leg 2-1 and held out for a 0-0 draw in the return, in the first Final contested by two Medellin clubs.

BOLIVIA

● Bolivar coasted to the opening championship title, clinching the trophy with four games to spare and finishing 15 points ahead of closest challengers Aurora.

CHILE

● Universidad de Chile, who narrowly avoided bankruptcy at the start of the season, beat Cobreloa 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 aggregate draw in the opening championship Final.

Hero to zero...Agudelo (right) is now serving a drugs ban

Saudis' China crisis

Michael Church sees a shift in power among the Gulf states during a controversial Asian Cup tournament

Losing it...Saudi coach Gerard Van der Lem vents his frustration at referee Kwon Jong-chul during the defeat against Iraq that ensured his side's exit

THE END OF the Asian Cup group stage was also the end of an era for three-time winners Saudi Arabia as they crashed out of the tournament. The Saudis, World Cup qualifiers for the past three finals tournaments and participants in the Asian Cup Final for the past five editions, were eliminated after drawing with tournament newcomers Turkmenistan and then losing to Uzbekistan, the eventual Group C winners, and Iraq, the runners-up, who also went through to the quarter-finals.

The omens had not been good for the Saudis, with Dutch coach Gerard Van der Lem forced to travel to China without eight players, either because of injury or exhaustion after an arduous season. These included midfield schemer Mohammad Noor and Abdullah Al-Wakad. However, this was not deemed a sufficiently good excuse for the team's early exit, and Van der Lem became the 13th coach in 10 years to be given his marching orders by the Saudi federation.

Yet the Dutchman was not the first to be sacked at the tournament. That dubious honour went to Philippe Troussier, of Group A participants Qatar, who was fired after his side lost their first game 2-1 to Indonesia.

The Frenchman, who led Japan to the title four years ago, came into the tournament as the subject of much criticism within Qatar, and his declaration that he would leave the post at the end of the tournament after a year in charge came as little surprise. However, the choice over Troussier's date of departure was taken out of his hands after the opening defeat.

He was replaced by Saeed Al-Misned, but the Qatari coach was unable to rescue his side, and it was hosts China and Bahrain that took the top two spots.

World Cup semi-finalists South Korea headed Group B, despite being without World Cup stars Yoo Sang-chul, Kim Nam-il and Song Chong-gug because of their call-up to the Olympic squad. However, they were held to a 0-0 draw in their opening game by tournament newcomers Jordan before beating the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

Jordan march on

The Jordanians, coached by Egyptian Mahmoud El-Gohary, have been a rising force in Asian football over the past 18 months, and their progress was confirmed as they took the group runners-up spot.

The first-round elimination of the Gulf's four leading nations – Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE – and the fact that Bahrain and Jordan had reached the

Hot shot...Mahmoud Shelbaya puts Jordan ahead in the quarter-final against Japan

last eight made the shift in the balance of power in west Asian football plain for all to see.

Oman, another up-and-coming Gulf team, felt hard done by not to join Bahrain and Jordan in the quarter-finals, at the expense of either holders Japan – the eventual tournament winners – or three-time champions Iran in Group D.

Oman squeezed out

Milan Macala's side lost only narrowly, 1-0, in their opening game against the Japanese, who struggled to get to grips with Oman just as they had in their World Cup qualifier in February, another 1-0 win for Japan.

But it Oman's 2-2 draw with Iran that was the real bone of contention. Imad Ali put the Gulf state 2-0 ahead in the first half but was then injured after being stamped on by Iranian defender Mohammed Nosrati. The Bahraini referee Rahman Al-Delawar missed the incident, and ironically it was Nosrati who scored three minutes into injury time to snatch Iran a point.

The Iranian was sent home from the tournament, and the Asian Football Confederation handed Al-Delawar a plane ticket home, but the punishments did nothing for Oman's chances.

In fact, they still had a slim chance of progressing, but even a 2-1 win over Thailand in their final group game was not enough to take them through to the quarter-finals after Japan and Iran drew 0-0. Iran were forced to play without Rahman Rezaei and Ali Badavi after they were banned for two games for coming to blows with each other during the Oman game.

The controversy that dogged the group games continued into the knockout phase, most notably Japan's quarter-final with Jordan in Chongqing.

That the tournament newcomers pushed the holders all the way to extra-time and then penalties after a 1-1 draw was a story in itself. Jordan dominated large chunks of the tie as Zico's side struggled to handle the Arabs' physical presence. And things were to become worse for Japan as Shunsuke Nakamura and Alex missed their first two kicks of the shoot-out, both sending the ball high over the bar. Abdallah Abu Zema had converted Jordan's first penalty but as Rateb Al-Awadat prepared to take penalty number two, Japan captain Tsuneyasu Miyamoto asked Malaysian referee Mohd Salleh Subkhiddin to switch the shoot-out to the other end of the pitch because of the poor state of the penalty spot already used. After looking at the pitch and consulting the fourth official, Mohd Salleh agreed.

Al-Awadat still scored but the psychological balance had swung Japan's way. Eventually, the shoot-out went to sudden death, and while Miyamoto converted for Japan, Bashar Bani Yaseen hit the post, and Jordan's great run was over.

On the same day, Iran exacted revenge on South Korea for defeating them in the quarter-finals four years ago with a remarkable 4-3 win. Ali Karimi scored a hat-trick to eliminate Jo Bonfrere's team.

Bahrain's march continued after they beat Uzbekistan 4-3 on penalties following an entertaining 2-2 draw. Srecko Juricic's team thus reached the semis in what was only the nation's second finals appearance. China defeated Iraq 3-0, but the match ended in an unseemly shoving match after the injury-time dismissal of Iraqi keeper Ahmed Ali.

China find favour

But it was in the semi-finals that China really became embroiled in controversy. Things started well for the hosts in their clash with Iran, as Shao Jiayi gave them a deserved lead after 19 minutes. Then Sayyed Mohammed Alavi put Iran level seven minutes before the break, and as Branko Ivankovic's side turned the screw, matters appeared to take a decidedly pro-Chinese flavour. Referee Najim Talaat was conned into sending off Iranian defender Sattar Zare three minutes after the restart following a push on Shao, who reacted as if he had been shot. Iran battled on gamely, though, and China should have been reduced to 10 men themselves when Zhang Yaokun scythed down Karimi. But he was shown only a yellow card.

After a goalless extra-time, Iran's Eman Mobali and Yahya Golmohammadi missed their spot-kicks in the shoot-out, to allow China through to their second Asian Cup Final.

In the other semi, Japan beat Bahrain 4-3 after extra-time on their way to retaining the trophy.

We're through...Bahrain celebrate reaching the semi-finals after beating Uzbekistan on penalties

Star struck...Stanley Waita dances a jig of delight as he and his Solomon Islands team-mates celebrate reaching the Oceania World Cup play-off

Solomons' Cup of cheer

ALLAN GILLET is the toast of the Solomon Islands after guiding the national team to within two steps of the World Cup finals.

The England-born coach has revitalised a team ranked only seventh in the Oceania region before the World Cup qualifiers commenced. The Solomon Islands finished runners-up in the second stage pool of the Oceania qualifying section, ahead of New Zealand, and face winners Australia in a play-off in September next year. The winners of that meet the fifth-placed South American side for a place at Germany 2006.

The Solomon Islands' hopes of progress appeared to have evaporated early on in the Adelaide-staged qualifying pool when they were beaten 3-0 by New Zealand. But the door was re-opened when Vanuatu sensationally dispatched the Kiwis 4-2 in the next round of games.

The Solomons duly beat Tahiti and Fiji and then secured the draw they needed in their last game, against already-qualified Australia, to make it through to the next phase. The first two stages of the World Cup qualifiers also doubled as the Oceania Nations Cup. Consequently, Australia and the Solomon Islands will meet over two legs this October to decide the continental title.

FIJIAN League leaders Ba won the FA Cup, defeating Suva 2-0 in the Final in Nadi with two first-half goals from midfielder Manoa Masi.

Magenta completed the Double in **NEW CALEDONIA** when beating Mont Dore 2-1 in the Cup Final. However, they failed to retain the Do-Tom Cup, losing 3-2 on aggregate to Tahitian champions Manu Ura, who will represent Oceania in October's French Overseas Territory Cup in Paris.

In **NEW ZEALAND**, Miramar Rangers, Eastern Suburbs and Waitakere City, who boast 10 Chatham Cup wins between them, all reached the semi-finals of this year's tournament. Minnows Palmerston North Marist beat Central United 1-0 to take the other last-four berth.

Paul Moon

Three in a row for Marinos

JAPAN

YOKOHAMA F MARINOS made J.League history by becoming the first team to win three league stages in a row. They did it in style, gaining 10 points more in this year's First Stage than when carrying off last year's Second Stage.

"We didn't overwhelm the other teams," said manager Takeshi Okada. "We edged them game by game. But we were more mature this year, and didn't lose shape so easily when things weren't going well."

Jubilo Iwata led the race from the start but stumbled in the run-in when losing 1-0 at Kashima Antlers in the penultimate round. Antlers then lost to Marinos by the same score on the final day, handing the Yokohama side the title.

Marinos defender Yuji Nakazawa was named best player of the stage, and the 26-year-old showed at the Asian Cup he has become Japan's most solid asset at the back, as well as being a danger at set-pieces.

Urawa Reds have signed Turkey defender Alpay Ozalan from South Koreans Incheon. Alpay, who left Aston Villa under a cloud after a spat with David Beckham during a Euro 2004 qualifier, replaces injured Russian Yuri Nikiforov.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

Formidable barrier...Marinos defender Yuji Nakazawa

Big boys under threat

ONLY THREE OF Africa's 10 World Cup qualifying rounds have been played, but there are already the makings of titanic tussles in the five groups.

With only the group winners qualifying for the 2006 finals there is the prospect of a dramatic climax to the preliminaries in October next year.

In Group 3, for example, Cameroon's almost divine right to qualification is under serious threat from an Ivory Coast side brimming with stars and confidence.

Although the Ivorians lost their last qualifier, 2-0 away to Cameroon in early July, there is every indication that they will put in a strong challenge. They are a formidably talented outfit, led up front by new Chelsea signing Didier Drogba and Anderlecht's Aruna Dindane, Belgium's Footballer of the Year last term.

A defence featuring Marseille's Abdoulaye Meite, former Milan and Inter full-back Cyril Domoraud and Kolo Toure of Arsenal has also proven tough to break down. But against Cameroon they let two goals slip in the last 10 minutes to suffer a first defeat after having beaten Egypt 2-1 away in their previous match and Libya 2-0 at home in the opener.

The Ivorians have the advantage of home games to come against Cameroon and Egypt – two countries who are likely to cancel each other out home and away, potentially leaving the route clear for the Ivorian Elephants.

In Group 5, Morocco and Tunisia are set for another bruising battle, having clashed in the African Nations Cup Final earlier this year. But Guinea have legitimate qualification hopes of their own, especially since they beat African champions Tunisia 2-1 at home in the second round of World Cup qualifiers.

Nigeria, still vacillating over whether to bring in a high-profile foreign coach to replace Christian Chukwu after some mediocre performances, could be in for a few nasty surprises in Group 4.

They have already lost to Angola, 1-0 in Luanda, and had to wait until the 84th minute to score the only goal of the home game against Algeria. The absence of Jay-Jay Okocha and Obafemi Martins, late withdrawals through injury, no doubt contributed to the Angola defeat.

Nigeria are set to be severely tested by Zimbabwe in September, and face the possibility of missing out on qualification unless they can get some consistency going.

Group 1 favourites Senegal have also been far from convincing, losing 3-1 away to Togo and then only narrowly beating Zambia 1-0.

Ghana hammered South Africa 3-0 at home in Group 2 but they will need to be more efficient away – they opened with a 1-0 defeat in Burkina Faso and then could only draw 1-1 in Uganda.

Mark Gleeson

High life...Nigeria v Algeria

Tunisians lead the way

Esperance and Etoile Sahel, Tunisia's representatives in the Champions League group stage, were both top of their respective groups after winning their first three games.

Esperance, the well-organised and ambitious Tunis club, are the continent's most consistent performers, having reached the last eight of the Champions League six years in a row and only once failed to make the last four during that period. Yet they have nothing to show for it.

Each year they start as favourites, and each year they come steaming out of the blocks, only to fade away.

This year they again show much promise, having beaten SuperSport United 2-1 away in South Africa, hammered Senegal's Jeanne d'Arc 5-0 at home and then USM Alger 2-1, also in Tunisia, to top Group B.

Ali Zitouni, surprisingly left out of Tunisia's African Nations Cup finals squad, is proving a point with six goals in the three games.

In Group A, Etoile du Sahel beat defending champions Enyimba of Nigeria 1-0 at home, having already seen off Malawi's Bakili Bullets 1-0 away and Ivorians Africa Sports 2-0 in Sousse.

Mark Gleeson

AFRICA ROUND-UP

EAST AFRICA

● Hassan Mohamed is the new coach of UGANDA after an aid agreement that sees EGYPT pay his wages and Uganda provide him with accommodation and a car. Mike Mutebi, who has handled the side in their three World Cup qualifiers to date, stays on as assistant coach.

● St Michel United won the SEYCHELLES Cup, beating Red Stars 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

NORTH AFRICA

● USM Alger denied League champions JS Kabylie the Double in ALGERIA by beating them 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw in the Cup Final.

● The Confederation of African Football has reduced the punishment imposed on TUNISIA'S Esperance following an incident during last year's African Champions League semi-final against Ismaili of Egypt. Esperance were ordered to play their next five home matches in African club competition at least 200km from Tunis. However, this was reduced to three after the club appealed for clemency.

Libyan international Tarek Ettayeb has joined Gaziantepspor of Turkey from CS Sfaxien, who have a new coach. Swiss Michel Decastel takes the reins at the club, winners of the inaugural Arab Champions League in Beirut, while his predecessor, Mrad Mahjoubi, has succeeded Bernard Simondi at Etoile Sahel.

Frenchman Henri Stambouli, who took Mali to the semi-finals of the Tunisia-hosted Nations Cup, is back in the country as coach of Club Africain.

● SUDAN fired their Polish national team coach Wojciech Lazarek after a 1-0 home defeat by Libya in the World Cup qualifiers.

● EGYPTIAN champions Zamalek have named Dragoslav Stepanovic as their new coach. The Serbia-born boss, who has considerable experience in the Bundesliga, replaces Portuguese Nelo Vingada. Zamalek won the League title unbeaten, but proved failures in both the African Champions League and Arab Champions League.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

● Konstadin Papic is the new coach of SOUTH AFRICA'S Orlando Pirates, having previously worked in Nigeria. Bruce Grobbelaar has returned to coaching in South Africa with Manning Rangers, last season's Cup Finalists.

● In ANGOLA, Brazilian Antonio Clemente has replaced Dutchman Jan Brouwer as coach of Petro Atletico. Clemente won the League with Petro in 1982, 1987 and 1988 in a previous stint with the club.

WEST AFRICA

● MALI fired former French international Alain Moizan as national team coach after the side picked up only one point from their first three World Cup qualifiers.

● German Ernest Middendorp quit as coach of GHANA'S Hearts of Oak after just five months, despite taking them to the group phase of the African Confederation Cup. Former Benin coach Cecil Jones Attuquayefio steps in.

Mark Gleeson

TALENT SCOUT

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

Andreas IVANSCHITZ

Austria's answer to David Beckham prepares to face England in Vienna

AUSTRIA COACH Hans Krankl is pinning his hopes on the country's new footballing star, Andreas Ivanschitz, as he looks ahead to the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign.

The photogenic 20-year-old midfielder is on the verge of becoming Austria's David Beckham, appearing on magazine covers and having just launched his own brand logo.

At his club, Rapid Wien, Ivanschitz sent Austrian record international Andreas Herzog into early retirement; in the national team he replaced Thomas Flogel to become Austria's youngest-ever captain.

The son of a musician at the prestigious Vienna Opera ball and a school teacher, Ivanschitz grew up in a tiny town of just 900 inhabitants. He joined Rapid as a teenager and fell back on his own musical talents – he plays piano, oboe and drums – to help him get through the tough early days in the big city.

But the country lad hung on, and his progress was confirmed when crowned Austrian Footballer of the Year in 2003. The skilful Ivanschitz even has enough self-confidence now to say Austria "can beat England in Vienna" – referring to the opening World Cup qualifier on September 4.

"He is the prototype of a new generation of Austrian footballers. Like Becks, he spends endless hours practising free-kicks, after our official sessions are over," Krankl enthuses.

Ivanschitz, like his idol Francesco Totti, is a cross between a midfielder and a striker, and not afraid to be the focus of attention. "I am not a figurehead yet, but certainly prepared to take responsibility," he says. "I love to be in the spotlight. I don't just want to play well, I also want to look good. I am not spending half an hour in front of the mirror, but I am certainly vain.

"I am a good, but not a great player yet. Good things take time. But having dreams and pursuing them is most important."

The longer-term goals are to win the domestic title with Rapid, play at the 2006 World Cup and join a foreign club – "preferably in Italy or England, because of the atmosphere". First up, though, is that clash with England in Vienna – and the youngster is determined to turn his dream of a win into reality.

Harry Miltner

FACT FILE

Club **Rapid Wien**
Country **Austria**
Born **October 15, 1983**
International debut **March 2003, v Greece**
International caps **5 (1 goal)**

Mathieu FLAMINI

Arsenal's fast-track Frenchman but not quite 'the new Vieira'

IT'S LITTLE WONDER Marseille boss Jose Anigo was incandescent with rage on hearing that young defensive midfielder Mathieu Flamini had responded favourably to the overtures of Arsene Wenger and agreed to join Arsenal this summer.

Flamini's departure represented a double blow for the Provencal club. Not only had the French Under-21 international opted to walk away just a few months after breaking into the first team, but there would also be no transfer fee involved. Still to sign his first professional contract with Marseille, Flamini would cost Arsenal only a development indemnity.

Anigo, never one to shrug his shoulders, cried foul, claiming Flamini never had the slightest intention of signing a deal with Marseille. "This is pure treachery," the coach wailed. "Flamini cheated me. Money is the only reason why he didn't sign for us. He was just pretending when he said he wanted to leave because he was afraid he would play fewer games for us next season. At Arsenal there's plenty of competition for places too."

Predictably, the 20-year-old brushed aside the accusations of being a mercenary. He insisted he wanted to remain at Marseille but had come to the conclusion that he had fallen down the midfield pecking order at the club following the arrival this summer of international midfielder Benoit Pedretti from Sochaux.

But Flamini has deep Marseille roots, having been born in the city and first worn the club's white-and-blue strip at the age of six. So his decision to depart was still a shock.

Flamini started out as a sweeper before switching with great success to a midfield role at the age of 15. He was finally deemed ready for the Marseille first team midway through last season, and though the coach that gave him his bow, Alain Perrin, was soon to be sacked, successor Anigo proved equally enthusiastic about the homegrown youngster.

Flamini's dynamism, ball-winning ability and total commitment made him an integral part of Anigo's plans, and he was especially conspicuous during Marseille's march to the UEFA Cup Final. They claimed the scalps of Liverpool, Internazionale and Newcastle during their splendid run, before losing in the Final to Valencia.

The fast track indeed. Just six months into his first-team career and he has already crammed in a European Final, recognition at national Under-21 level and a transfer to the English champions.

Nevertheless, Arsenal fans would be well-advised not to expect too much too soon from Flamini, not to swallow the hype that he is the 'new Patrick Vieira'. Yes, he is talented, yes he has great work ethic and attitude. But his experience is limited and he certainly has his weak points, namely a tendency to give the ball away cheaply and to collect unnecessary bookings for reckless challenges.

Over to you, Arsene.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Arsenal (Eng)
Country France
Born March 7, 1984, in Marseille
Previous club Marseille

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INTERNATIONALS

Saturday, July 3

July 3 - Chongqing - friendly
China 6 (Li Jinyu 15, 50, Yan Song 61, Li Ming 69, Zhang Shuo 79, Li Yi 86)
Lebanon 0
HT: 1-0
China: Li Jian - Zhou Ting (Sun Xiang 46), Zheng Zhi, Zhang Yaokun, Wei Xin, Zheng Bin (Li Xiaopeng 46), Shao Jiayi (Yan Song 46), Zhao Junzhe, Li Ming, Li Yi, Li Jinyu (Zhang Shuo 60).

Monday, July 5

July 5 - Bangkok - friendly
Thailand 0
Bahrain 2 (A Hubail, H Ali)
HT: 0-0

Thursday, July 8

July 8 - Bangkok - friendly
Thailand 0
Jordan 0

Saturday, July 10

July 10 - Hohhot - friendly
China 2 (Zheng Zhi 63, pen 90)
United Arab Emirates 2 (Khamis 48, Matar 60)
HT: 0-0
China: Liu Yunfei - Sun Xiang (Zhou Ting 72), Li Weifeng, Wei Xin (Xu Yunlong 46), Yan Song (Sun Jihai 72), Zhou Haibin (Zheng Bin 80), Zhao Junzhe, Li Ming, Zheng Zhi, Hao Haidong (Ji Mingyi 46), Li Jinyu (Li Yi 46).

July 10 - Gwangju - friendly
South Korea 2 (Lee Dong-gook 2, Choi Jin-cheul 40)
Bahrain 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,241. **Ref:** Fong (HK)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-cheul, Lee Min-sung, Lee Young-pyo, Hyun Young-min, Park Yo-seb (Park Jae-hong 78), Lee Eul-yong (Kim Jung-kyum 46), Seol Ki-hyeon, Chung Kyung-ho, Lee Dong-gook, Kim Eun-jung.
Bahrain: Saeed (Abdulkarim 46) - Aziz, Adnan, Basheer (Husain 76), M Hubail, Salmeen, Yousuf (Kawary 86), Jalal, Farhan (Baba 46), A Hubail (Naser 80), H Ali (Jaffar 46).

July 10 - Bangkok - friendly
Thailand 3 (Narongchai 47, Sutee 53, Pichitpong 87)
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Rougier 17, Glasgow 30)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,000
Trinidad & Tobago: Williams - K Thomas, King, Jones, Rojas, Eve, Scotland, Glasgow, Dwarika, Rougier, Rahim.

Sunday, July 11

July 11 - Chicago - friendly
United States 1 (Bocanegra 88)
Poland 1 (Wlodarczyk 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,529. **Ref:** Petrescu (Can)
United States: Howard - Cherundolo (Albright 46), Pope, Bocanegra, Convey, Mastroeni (Mathis 77), Zavagnin (Gaven 83), Donovan, Beasley, McBride (Ching 66), Wolff (Mullan 72).
Poland: Boruc - Mowlik, Dudka (Stasiak 73), Kaczorowski, Bieniuk (Lasocki 64), Jarzebowski, Rachwal (Scherfchen 79), Burkhardt, Mila (Golinski 62), Wlodarczyk (Gevorgyan 89), Jelen.

Monday, July 12

July 12 - friendly
Malaysia 2
Singapore 0
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, July 14

July 14 - Seoul - friendly
South Korea 1 (Cha Doo-ri 52)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Scotland 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,025. **Ref:** Matsumura (Jap)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-cheul (Kim Jin-kyu 74), Lee Min-sung, Kim Tae-young (Park Jae-hong 66), Lee Young-pyo (Park Jin-sub 78), Hyun Young-min, Park Ji-sung, Kim Nam-il, Seol Ki-hyeon (Chung Kyung-ho 46), Lee Dong-gook, Ahn Jung-hwan (Cha Doo-ri 46).
Trinidad & Tobago: Jack - K Thomas, Rojas, Jones, King (Celestine 67), Phillips, Rougier, Eve, Rahim (Spann 55), Scotland (Baptiste 85), Sealy.

Sunday, July 18

July 18 - Los Angeles, USA - friendly
Guatemala 1 (Medina 41)
El Salvador 0
HT: 1-0
Guatemala: Garcia - Medina, Melgar, Martinez, Sanabria, Davila, Thompson (Cabrera 76), Antonio, Ramirez (Romero 46), Montepeque, Pezzarossi (W Estrada 46).
El Salvador: S Rivera - V Velasquez, Murgas, Diaz, Rodriguez, Dawson, Gochez (Merino 54), Marvin Gonzalez, Giron (Pacheco 54), Jose Martinez, Torres (Escobar 62). *Sent off: Rodriguez 39min.*

Friday, July 23

July 23 - Panama City - friendly
Panama 1 (Julio Dely Valdes 72)
Guatemala 1 (Ramirez 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Mejia (CR)
Panama: Penedo - Miranda, Moreno, Rivera, Henriquez, M Torres, Mitre, Jorge Dely Valdes (Lombardo 61), Aguilar (Medina 85), Garces, Julio Dely Valdes.
Guatemala: Klee - Martinez, Sanabria, Melgar, Cabrera, Antonio (Rodriguez 46), Davila (Mendoza 60), Ramirez (Montepeque 69), Thompson, Pezzarossi, W Estrada (Romero 69).

Wednesday, July 28

July 28 - Tegucigalpa - friendly
Honduras 0
Panama 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Zelaya (Hnd)
Honduras: H Medina - N Medina (Sabillon), Izaguirre, Beata, Figueroa, W Palacios, Lopez, J Palacios, Guerrero (E Martinez), Nunez, C Pavon (S Martinez).
Panama: James - Miranda, Moreno, Henriquez, Rivera, Torres, Mitre, Lombardo (Jorge Dely Valdes), Julio Dely Valdes, Aguilar (Medina), Garces.

Tuesday, August 3

Aug 3 - San Salvador - friendly
El Salvador 0
Honduras 4 (Izaguirre 4, J Palacios 5, 71, 75)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Aguilar (ElS)
El Salvador: S Rivera - Torres, V Velasquez, Prado, Carranza (Umanzor 80), Pacheco, Murgas, Rodriguez, Nerio (Gochez 46), Nidelson (Alas 80), Jose Martinez (D Mejia 67). *Sent off: Murgas 40min.*
Honduras: Valladares - Izaguirre, Beata, Figueroa, Sabillon, J Palacios, Lopez, W Palacios, Guerrero, S Martinez (E Martinez 40), Carcamo.

Friday, August 6

Aug 6 - Washington DC - friendly
El Salvador 0
Guatemala 2 (Ramirez 49, Mendoza 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Valenzuela (USA)
El Salvador: S Rivera - Marvin Gonzalez, Prado, V Velasquez, Torres (Quintanilla 71), Pacheco, Murgas, Rodriguez, Gochez (Umanzor 69), Jose Martinez, Galdamez.
Guatemala: Trigueno - Melgar, Chen, Cabrera, Martinez (Albizuris 75), Thompson, Antonio (Davila 61; Montepeque 83), Ramirez (Romero 69), Ruiz (Mendoza 46), Pezzarossi (W Estrada 80).

Saturday, August 7

Aug 7 - Kampala - friendly
Uganda 1 (Obua pen 27)
Kenya 1 (Baraza 68)
HT: 1-0

Wednesday, August 11

Aug 11 - Guatemala City - friendly
Guatemala 4 (Melgar 48, Ramirez 71, Romero 78, W Estrada 86)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (C Smith 89)
HT: 0-0
Guatemala: Foster - Melgar, Cabrera, Chen (Sanabria 81), Martinez (Albizuris 81), Thompson, Romero, Rodriguez (Antonio 73), Ramirez (Davila 77), Mendoza (W Estrada 64), Pezzarossi (Montepeque 81).
Trinidad & Tobago: D Williams - Rojas, Phillips, K Thomas, King, Eve, Dwarika, Glasgow (Celestine 46), Rougier, Glenn (C Smith 65), Mason (K Baptiste 85). *Sent off: Rojas 22min.*

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

Quarter-finals

July 18 - Luanda
Angola 1 (Flavio 3)
Botswana 1 (Motlhabankwe 25)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Phomane (Les)
Angola 5-3 on pens
Angola: Lama - Joel, Jamba, Yamba Asha, Simao, Tony Osodio (Mateus Andre), Manuel, Fofana (Minguito), Chinho (Mateus), Flavio, Love.
Botswana: Tshelametsi - Letsholathebe, Gabonamong, Mogaladi, Amos, Kolagano, Motlhabankwe, Butale, Ntshingane (Mothusi), Molebatsi (Kgopolelo), Mothibi (Moloi).

July 31 - Lusaka
Zambia 3 (Mulenga 11, Mumamba 55, Bwalya 68)
Mauritius 1 (Appou 70)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Manuel (Zim)
Zambia: Kakonje - Musonda, Hachilensa, Lungu, Billy Mwanza, Mumamba, Mwandila (Katongo 57), Chansa, Mulenga (Kaposa 67), Simukonda (Bwalya 57), Fichite.
Mauritius: Doro - G Edouard, L'Enfle, Speville, Mourgine, Bayaram, Louis (R Naboth 76), Cundasamy, Jeannot (Punchoo 28), Appou, Perle (D Edouard 64).

Semi-finals draw

Mozambique v Angola (Sep 18/19, Maputo)
Zimbabwe v Zambia (Oct 2/3, Harare)

KIRIN CUP

In Japan

July 9 - Hiroshima
Japan 3 (Fukunishi 44, T Suzuki 66, Yanagisawa 81)
Slovakia 1 (Babnic 65)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,458. **Ref:** Breeze (Aus)
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tsuboi (Tanaka 47), Miyamoto, Nakazawa, Kaji, Endo, Fukunishi, Alex (Miura 80), Nakamura (Ogasawara 86), T Suzuki (Motoyama 77), Tamada (Yanagisawa 77).
Slovakia: Contofalsky - Poljovka (Urban 72), Borbely, Skrtel, Durica, Zofcak, Sninsky (Dolezaj 83), Cech, Babnic, Kiska (Belak 46), Reiter (Breska 61).

July 11 - Fukuoka
Slovakia 0
Serbia & Montenegro 2 (Milosevic 6, Jestrovic 90)
HT: 0-1
Slovakia: Contofalsky - Poljovka, Skrtel, Sninsky, Durica (Belak 55), Babnic (Kiska 73), Borbely, Zofcak, Cech, Breska, Reiter.
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - M Dudic, Petkovic, Jokic, Pantic, Neziri (Sarac 46), Mladenovic (Zagic 70), Ilic (Vukcevic 87), Maric (Markoski 80), Milosevic (Jestrovic 60), Lazovic (Kolakovic 75).

July 13 - Yokohama
Japan 1 (Endo 49)
Serbia & Montenegro 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 57,616. **Ref:** Lennie (Aus)
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka, Miyamoto, Alex, Nakazawa, Kaji, Fukunishi, Nakamura, Endo, T Suzuki, Tamada (Yanagisawa 71).
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - M Dudic, Petkovic, Sarac (Neziri 84), Jokic, Mladenovic (Vukcevic 84), Ilic, Pantic (Markoski 71), Maric (Vukmir 87), Milosevic (Kolakovic 79), Lazovic (Jestrovic 64).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Serbia & M'negro	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Slovakia	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

COPA AMERICA

In Peru

Group A

July 6 - Lima
Venezuela 0
Colombia 1 (Moreno pen 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Rezende (Bra)
Venezuela: Angelucci - Vallenilla (H Gonzalez 70), Rey, Hernandez (Rojas 65), M Mea Vitali, Cichero, Paez, Jimenez, Moran, Rondon (Margiotta 39), Arango.
Colombia: Henao - G Martinez, Gonzalez, Orozco, Victoria, Diaz, Aguilar (Castrillon 76), Patino, Ferreira (Morantes 89), Moreno (Viafara 70), Herrera.

July 6 - Lima
Peru 2 (Pizarro pen 68, Palacios 86)
Bolivia 2 (Botero 36, Alvarez 57)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
Peru: Ibanez - Acasiete, Rebosio, Jorge Soto, Vilches, Solano (Mendoza 62), Jayo, Maestri (Palacios 62), C Zegarra (Olcese 80), Farfan, Pizarro.
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Jauregui, Arana, Raldes, Alvarez, Pizarro (Arce 84), Tufino, Cristaldo, L Gutierrez (Galindo 63), Mercado (Rojas 72), Botero.

July 9 - Lima
Colombia 1 (Perea 90)
Bolivia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ramos (Ecu)
Colombia: Henao - G Martinez, Orozco, Dinas, Victoria, Patino, Diaz, Aguilar (Viafara 84), Ferreira (Perea 79), Moreno (Murillo 71), Herrera.
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Jauregui, Arana, Raldes, Alvarez, Pizarro, Tufino, Cristaldo (Flores 34), L Gutierrez, Mercado (Roger Suarez 65), Botero.

July 9 - Lima
Peru 3 (Farfan 34, Solano 62, Acasiete 72)
Venezuela 1 (Margiotta 74)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Selman (Chl)
Peru: Ibanez - Acasiete, Rebosio, Vilches, Solano (Jorge Soto 79), Jayo, Palacios (Ciurlizza 84), Salas, Mendoza (Maestri 89), Pizarro, Farfan. *Sent off: Pizarro 87min.*
Venezuela: Angelucci - Vallenilla, Rey, Hernandez, M Mea Vitali, Cichero, Rondon (Margiotta 58), Paez (H Gonzalez 65), Jimenez, Rojas (Moran 46), Arango. *Sent off: M Mea Vitali 76min.*

July 12 - Trujillo
Venezuela 1 (Moran 27)
Bolivia 1 (Galindo 32)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Mattus (CR)
Venezuela: Angelucci - Vallenilla, Rey, Hernandez, Cichero, Margiotta (H Gonzalez 64), Paez, Jimenez, Moran (Rondon 58), Arango, A Gonzalez (Vielma 74).
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Jauregui, Arana, Raldes, Alvarez, Pizarro (Tufino 21), Galindo, Roger Suarez (Flores 70), L Gutierrez, Mercado (Arce 59), Botero.

July 12 - Trujillo
Peru 2 (Solano 58, Maestri 60)
Colombia 2 (Congo 34, Aguilar 52)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Peru: Ibanez - Acasiete, Rebosio (Jorge Soto 13), Vilches, Solano (Ciurlizza 89), Jayo, Maestri (P Garcia 75), Palacios, Salas, Mendoza, Farfan.
Colombia: Henao - G Martinez, Orozco, Dinas (A Gonzalez 44), Victoria, Diaz, Viafara, Aguilar, Morantes (Ferreira 82), Murillo, Congo (Perea 77).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Peru	3	1	2	0	7	5	5
Bolivia	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Venezuela	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Group B

July 7 - Chiclayo
Mexico 2 (Osorio 45, Pardo 68)
Uruguay 2 (Bueno 42, Montero 87)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Mexico: O Sanchez - D Davino, Marquez, Pardo, Carmona, Osorio, Oteo (Altamirano 83), Valdez, Lozano, Borgetti (Bautista 67), Palencia (Arellano 67).
Uruguay: Barbat - Varela, Bizera, Montero, Dario Rodriguez, C Rodriguez, Pouso (Sanchez 87), Sosa, Forlan (Parodi 74), Bueno, D Silva (R Morales 78). *Sent off: R Morales 80min.*

July 7 - Chiclayo
Argentina 6 (Kily Gonzalez pen 5, Saviola 64, 74, 79, D'Alessandro 84, L Gonzalez 90)
Ecuador 1 (Delgado 62)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Ayala, Sorin, Heinze, Mascherano, Zanetti, D'Alessandro, Saviola (Tevez 83), C Delgado (Rosales 70), Kily Gonzalez (C Rodriguez 87), L Gonzalez.
Ecuador: Ibarra - I Hurtado, De la Cruz (Mendez 54), Obregon, Ambrossi, Ordonez (Delgado 46), M Ayovi, Chala, G Espinoza, Reasco, E Tenorio (Salas 30).

July 10 - Chiclayo
Uruguay 2 (Forlan 61, Bueno 79)
Ecuador 1 (Salas 73)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Brand (Ven)
Uruguay: Barbat - Bizera, Dario Rodriguez, Montero (Lago 59), Sosa, Varela, Pouso, C Rodriguez (Sanchez 55), D Silva, Bueno, Forlan (Perez 68).
Ecuador: Ibarra - I Hurtado, De la Cruz, Obregon, A Aguinaga, Chala, G Espinoza, Reasco, Mendez (Ordonez 82), Delgado, E Tenorio (Salas 63).

July 10 - Chiclayo
Argentina 0
Mexico 1 (R Morales 9)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Rezende (Bra)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Ayala, Sorin (Figueroa 76), Mascherano, Heinze, Saviola, Zanetti, D'Alessandro, L Gonzalez (Tevez 66), Kily Gonzalez, C Delgado (Rosales 66).
Mexico: O Sanchez - Marquez, Torrado, Briseno (Valdez 75), Carmona, D Davino, Pardo, Osorio, Arellano, R Morales (Altamirano 64), Borgetti (Osorno 64).

July 13 - Piura
Mexico 2 (Altamirano pen 26, Bautista 42)
Ecuador 1 (Delgado 71)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Lecca (Per)
Mexico: O Sanchez - Altamirano, Briseno, D Davino, Valdez, Suarez, Torrado, R Morales (Lozano 28), Arellano (Osorno 74), Bautista (Mendez 60), Palencia.
Ecuador: J Espinoza (Lanza 48) - I Hurtado, De la Cruz, A Aguinaga (Figueroa 64), Saritama, Chala (Salas 48), Reasco, M Ayovi, G Espinoza, Soledispa, Delgado.

July 13 - Piura
Argentina 4 (Kily Gonzalez pen 19, Figueroa 20, 89, Ayala 80)
Uruguay 2 (Estoyanoff 7, Sanchez 39)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Selman (Chl)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Zanetti, Ayala, Heinze, C Rodriguez (M Gonzalez 46), Mascherano, L Gonzalez (Saviola 79), D'Alessandro, C Delgado (Tevez 76), Figueroa, Kily Gonzalez.
Uruguay: Barbat - Bizera, Dario Rodriguez, Sosa (Bueno 86), Lago, Estoyanoff (G Rodriguez 43), Perez, Delgado, Diogo, Forlan, Sanchez (C Rodriguez 71). *Sent off: Bizera 35min.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Argentina	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Ecuador	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Group C

July 8 - Arequipa
Costa Rica 0
Paraguay 1 (Dos Santos pen 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - Badilla, T Bennett, Bryce, Centeno (Hernandez 79), Gomez (A Solis 60), L Gonzalez, Herron (Saborio 60), Marin, Sequeira, Wright.
Paraguay: D Barreto - Martinez, Devaca (Benitez 62), Gamarra, Cristaldo, Paredes, E Barreto, Figueredo (Bareiro 62), Britez (Dos Santos 46), Torres, Haedo.

July 8 - Arequipa
Brazil 1 (Luis Fabiano 89)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Mancini (Maicon 80), Luisao, Juan, Renato, Gustavo Nery, Edu, Alex, Dudu Cearense (Ricardo Oliveira 63), Adriano (Diego 63), Luis Fabiano.
Chile: Varas - Villarroel, Fuentes, Olarra, R Perez, Melendez, C Acuna, Valenzuela, Cisternas (Jimenez 46), Mirosevic (Galaz 85), S Gonzalez (Mancilla 66).

July 11 - Arequipa
Brazil 4 (Adriano 45, 54, 68, Juan 49)
Costa Rica 1 (Marin 81)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Mancini, Luisao, Juan, Renato, Gustavo Nery, Kleberson (Diego 58), Alex, Edu (Dudu Cearense 66), Adriano, Luis Fabiano (Vagner Love 58).
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - Bryce, T Bennett, Centeno, Sequeira, L Gonzalez, Marin, Saborio (Herron 72), Wright, A Solis (Hernandez 76), Badilla (Gomez 59).

July 11 - Arequipa
Paraguay 1 (Cristaldo 77)
Chile 1 (S Gonzalez 71)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)
Paraguay: Villar - Gamarra, E Barreto, Paredes, Cristaldo, Benitez, D Gonzalez, Haedo (Dos Santos 65), Torres, Bareiro (Martinez 80), Figueredo (Lopez 67).
Chile: Bravo - I Fuentes, L Fuentes, Olarra, R Perez (Aros 46), C Acuna (Millar 63), Melendez, Galaz (Mancilla 46), S Gonzalez, Mirosevic, Valenzuela.

July 14 - Tacna
Costa Rica 2 (Wright 59, Herron 90)
Chile 1 (Olarra 40)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - Badilla (Wilson 46), Bryce (Saborio 75), A Castro, Centeno, L Gonzalez (Diaz 46), Herron, Marin, Sequeira, A Solis, Wright.
Chile: Varas - I Fuentes, Olarra, L Fuentes, R Perez (Aros 71), C Acuna (Melendez 46), Millar (Mirosevic 71), Jimenez, S Gonzalez, Mancilla, Valenzuela.

July 14 - Arequipa
Brazil 1 (Luis Fabiano 35)
Paraguay 2 (J Gonzalez 29, Bareiro 71)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Luisao, Cris, Gustavo Nery, Renato, Kleberson (Ricardo Oliveira 75), Edu (Dudu Cearense 65), Felipe (Diego 65), Adriano, Luis Fabiano.
Paraguay: D Barreto - Martinez, Manzur, Gamarra, E Barreto, J Gonzalez (Figueredo 63), Paredes, Benitez, Esquivel, Dos Santos (Escobar 68), Bareiro (D Gonzalez 75). *Sent off: Martinez 73min.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Chile	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Top two from each group and the two best third-placed sides qualified for quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

July 17 - Chiclayo
Peru 0
Argentina 1 (Tevez 60)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Peru: Ibanez - Acasiete, Rebosio, Jorge Soto, Vilches (La Rosa 86), Solano, Jayo (Olcese 85), Palacios, Salas, Mendoza, C Zegarra (P Garcia 66).
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Zanetti, Ayala, Heinze, Sorin, L Gonzalez, Coloccini, D'Alessandro (Tevez 57), C Delgado (Rosales 72), Figueroa (Quiroga 83), Kily Gonzalez. *Sent off: Ayala 81min.*

July 17 - Trujillo
Colombia 2 (Aguilar 41, Moreno pen 45)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)
Colombia: Henao - Palacio, Orozco, Gonzalez, Victoria, Patino (Viafara 83), Aguilar, Diaz, Moreno, Herrera (Perea 72), Murillo (Ferreira 87).
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - A Castro, Wright, Marin, L Gonzalez, Sequeira, Bryce (Centeno 46), Hernandez (Gomez 56), Badilla, A Solis, Herron (Saborio 61).

July 18 - Tacna
Paraguay 1 (Gamarra 15)
Uruguay 3 (Bueno pen 40, D Silva 65, 88)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
Paraguay: Villar - Manzur, Gamarra, E Barreto (Dos Santos 67), Paredes, Cristaldo (Figueredo 60), Benitez, D Gonzalez (Villalba 72), Haedo, Torres, Bareiro.
Uruguay: Viera - Dario Rodriguez, Montero, Sosa, Lago, Varela, C Rodriguez, Delgado, D Silva, Bueno (G Rodriguez 74), Forlan (Perez 68). *Sent off: Varela 63min.*

July 18 - Piura
Mexico 0
Brazil 4 (Alex pen 26, Adriano 65, 78, Ricardo Oliveira 87)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Mexico: O Sanchez - Briseno, D Davino, Marquez, Osorio (Altamirano 33), Valdez, Torrado (Borgetti 60), Carmona, Pardo, Arellano (Osorno 80), Bautista.
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Luisao, Juan, Renato, Gustavo Nery, Kleberson, Edu, Alex, Adriano, Luis Fabiano (Ricardo Oliveira 76).

Semi-finals

July 20 - Lima
Argentina 3 (Tevez 32, L Gonzalez 51, Sorin 80)
Colombia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Zanetti, Coloccini, Heinze, Sorin, Mascherano, L Gonzalez, Tevez, C Delgado (Rosales 61), Figueroa (Quiroga 64), Kily Gonzalez (Placente 85).
Colombia: Henao - G Martinez, Gonzalez, Orozco, Victoria, Diaz, Aguilar (Viafara 57), Murillo (Perea 61), Patino, Moreno (Ferreira 73), Congo.

July 21 - Lima
Brazil 1 (Adriano 46)
Uruguay 1 (Sosa 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Brazil 5-3 on pens
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Luisao, Juan, Renato, Gustavo Nery, Kleberson (Julio Baptista 75), Edu (Diego 75), Alex, Adriano, Luis Fabiano.
Uruguay: Viera - Bizera, Dario Rodriguez, Montero, Sosa, C Rodriguez (Sanchez 70), Perez (Pouso 80), Delgado, Diogo, D Silva, Bueno (Forlan 62).

Third-place play-off

July 24 - Cusco
Colombia 1 (Herrera 70)
Uruguay 2 (Estoyanoff 4, Sanchez 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Colombia: Henao - G Martinez, Orozco, Gonzalez, Victoria, Viafara, Aguilar, Patino (Castrillon 68), Murillo (Morantes 45), Ferreira (Perea 69), Herrera.
Uruguay: Barbat - Bizera, Lago, Diogo, G Rodriguez, Martinez (Varela 68), Parodi (Forlan 76), Estoyanoff (Sosa 58), Pouso, Sanchez, Morales.

Final

July 25 - Lima
Argentina 2 (Kily Gonzalez pen 21, C Delgado 87)
Brazil 2 (Luisao 45, Adriano 90)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Brazil 4-2 on pens
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Coloccini, Ayala, Heinze, Zanetti, Mascherano, Sorin, L Gonzalez (D'Alessandro 75), Rosales (C Delgado 64), Tevez (Quiroga 90), Kily Gonzalez.
Brazil: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Luisao (Cris 81), Juan, Renato, Gustavo Nery, Kleberson (Diego 54), Edu, Alex (Felipe 63), Adriano, Luis Fabiano.

COPA AMERICA SQUADS

ARGENTINA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Roberto ABBONDANZIERI (Boca Juniors)
12 Pablo CAVALLERO (Celta Vigo, Spa)

DEFENDERS
2 Roberto AYALA (Valencia, Spa)
22 Fabricio COLOCCINI (Milan, Ita)
15 Leandro FERNANDEZ (Newell's Old Boys)
6 Gabriel HEINZE (Manchester United, Eng)
13 Diego PLACENTE (Bayer Leverkusen, Ger)
4 Facundo QUIROGA (Wolfsburg, Ger)
14 Clemente RODRIGUEZ (Boca Juniors)
3 Juan Pablo SORIN (Cruzeiro, Bra)

MIDFIELDERS
10 Andres D'ALESSANDRO (Wolfsburg, Ger)
16 Luis GONZALEZ (River Plate)
17 Mariano GONZALEZ (Palermo, Ita)
18 Cristian 'KILY' GONZALEZ (Internazionale, Ita)
5 Javier MASCHERANO (River Plate)
20 Nicolas MEDINA (Sunderland, Eng)
8 Javier ZANETTI (Internazionale, Ita)

FORWARDS
19 Cesar DELGADO (Cruz Azul, Mex)
9 Luciano FIGUEROA (Cruz Azul, Mex)
21 Mauro ROSALES (Newell's Old Boys)
7 Javier SAVIOLA (Barcelona, Spa)
11 Carlos TEVEZ (Boca Juniors)

Coach: Marcelo BIELSA

BOLIVIA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jose Carlos FERNANDEZ (Independiente, Arg)
21 Leonardo FERNANDEZ (Chacarita Jnrs, Arg)
13 Sergio GALARZA (Jorge Wilstermann)

DEFENDERS
4 Lorgio ALVAREZ (Oriente Petrolero)
5 Ronald ARANA (Oriente Petrolero)
2 Miguel Angel HOYOS (Oriente Petrolero)
3 Sergio JAUREGUI (Blooming)
15 Limbert PIZARRO (Bolivar)
16 Ronald RALDES (Rosario Central, Arg)
22 Juan Carlos SANCHEZ (Aurora)
14 Herman SOLIZ (The Strongest)

MIDFIELDERS
7 Luis Hector CRISTALDO (The Strongest)
12 Walter Alberto FLORES (San Jose)
19 Gonzalo German GALINDO (Bolivar)
10 Limberg GUTIERREZ (Bolivar)
6 Richard Jose ROJAS (The Strongest)
8 Ruben TUFINO (Bolivar)
18 Getulio VACA DIEZ (Blooming)

FORWARDS
17 Juan Carlos ARCE (Oriente Petrolero)
20 Joaquin BOTERO (Pumas UNAM, Mex)
9 Miguel MERCADO (Bolivar)
11 Roger SUAREZ (Bolivar)

Coach: Ramiro BLACUT

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS
12 FABIO (Vasco da Gama)
1 JULIO CESAR (Flamengo)

DEFENDERS
17 ADRIANO CORREIA (Coritiba)
14 Jose BORDON (Stuttgart, Ger)
15 CRIS (Cruzeiro)
6 GUSTAVO NERY (Sao Paulo)
4 JUAN (Bayer Leverkusen, Ger)
3 LUISAO (Benfica, Por)
13 MAICON (Monaco, Fra)
2 MANCINI (Roma, Ita)

MIDFIELDERS
10 ALEX (Cruzeiro)
19 DIEGO (Santos)
16 DUDU CEARENSE (Kashiwa Reysol, Jap)
11 EDU (Arsenal, Eng)
20 FELIPE (Flamengo)
18 JULIO BAPTISTA (Sevilla, Spa)
8 KLEBERSON (Manchester United, Eng)
5 RENATO (Santos)

FORWARDS
7 ADRIANO (Internazionale, Ita)
9 LUIS FABIANO (Sao Paulo)
21 RICARDO OLIVEIRA (Valencia, Spa)
22 VAGNER LOVE (Palmeiras)

Coach: Carlos Alberto PARREIRA

CHILE

GOALKEEPERS
1 Claudio Andres BRAVO (Colo Colo)
12 Alex VARAS (Santiago Wanderers)

DEFENDERS
2 Cristian ALVAREZ (Universidad Catolica)
20 Mauricio Fernando AROS (Huachipato)
13 Ismael FUENTES (Rangers)
3 Luis FUENTES (Cobreloa)
18 Rodrigo MELENDEZ (Quilmes, Arg)
19 Rafael OLARRA (Independiente, Arg)
4 Rodrigo PEREZ (Cobreloa)
5 Miguel RAMIREZ (Colo Colo)

MIDFIELDERS
6 Clarence ACUNA (Rosario Central, Arg)
16 Jonathan CISTERNAS (Cobreloa)
21 Luis Pedro FIGUEROA (Univ. Concepcion)
11 Mark GONZALEZ (Universidad Catolica)
10 Luis Antonio JIMENEZ (Ternana, Ita)
8 Rodrigo Javier MILLAR (Huachipato)
17 Milovan MIROSEVIC (Racing Club, Arg)
7 Rodrigo VALENZUELA (America, Mex)
14 Moises VILLARROEL (Colo Colo)

FORWARDS
22 Patricio Sebastian GALAZ (Cobreloa)
9 Sebastian GONZALEZ (Atlante, Mex)
15 Hector Raul MANCILLA (Huachipato)

Coach: Juvenal OLMOS

COLOMBIA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Breiner CASTILLO (Deportivo Cali)
1 Juan Carlos HENAO (Once Caldas)

DEFENDERS
13 Arley DINAS (Deportes Tolima)
2 Andres Felipe GONZALEZ (America)
22 Gonzalo MARTINEZ (Atletico Junior)
5 Andres Felipe OROZCO (Racing Club, Arg)
21 Haider Guillermo PALACIO (Napoli, Ita)
4 Jesus SINISTERRA (Arminia Bielefeld, Ger)
20 Gustavo Andres VICTORIA (Rizespor, Tur)

MIDFIELDERS
18 Abel Enrique AGUILAR (Deportivo Cali)
19 Jose Antonio AMAYA (Atletico Junior)
3 Jaime CASTRILLON (Independiente Medellin)
6 Oscar DIAZ (Deportivo Cali)
8 David Arturo FERREIRA (America)
10 Neider Yesid MORANTES (Indep Medellin)
11 Elkin MURILLO (LDU Quito, Ecu)
17 Jairo PATINO (Newell's Old Boys, Arg)
15 Jhon Eduis VIAFARA (Once Caldas)

FORWARDS
16 Edwin CONGO (Levante, Spa)
9 Sergio HERRERA (America)
7 Tressor MORENO (Deportivo Cali)
14 Edixon PEREA (Atletico Nacional)

Coach: Reinaldo RUEDA

COSTA RICA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Victor Andrey BOLIVAR (Liberia)
22 Ricardo GONZALEZ (Alajuelense)
18 Jose Francisco PORRAS (Saprissa)

DEFENDERS
16 Try BENNETT (Herediano)
4 Alexandro CASTRO (Alajuelense)
15 Junior Enrique DIAZ (Herediano)
12 Leonardo GONZALEZ (Herediano)
3 Luis MARIN (Alajuelense)
20 Douglas Esteban SEQUEIRA (Saprissa)
2 Michael UMANA (Herediano)
19 Mauricio WRIGHT (AEK Athens, Gre)

MIDFIELDERS
14 Cristian BADILLA (Herediano)
17 Steven BRYCE (Alajuelense)
10 Walter CENTENO (AEK Athens, Gre)
8 Danny FONSECA (Cartagines)
13 Carlos HERNANDEZ (Alajuelense)
6 Christian Alberto OVIEDO (Herediano)
7 Alonso SOLIS (Saprissa)

FORWARDS
11 Ronald GOMEZ (Irapuato, Mex)
21 Andy Francisco HERRON (Herediano)
9 Alvaro Alberto SABORIO (Saprissa)
5 Whayne WILSON (Cartagines)

Coach: Jorge Luis PINTO

ECUADOR

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jacinto ESPINOZA (LDU Quito)
12 Geovanny IBARRA (El Nacional)
22 Damian LANZA (Deportivo Cuenca)

DEFENDERS
4 Ulises DE LA CRUZ (Aston Villa, Eng)
17 Geovanny ESPINOZA (LDU Quito)
2 Jorge GUAGUA (El Nacional)
3 Ivan HURTADO (Tigres, Mex)
18 Neicer REASCO (LDU Quito)

MIDFIELDERS
10 Alex AGUINAGA (LDU Quito)
6 Paul AMBROSSI (LDU Quito)
15 Marlon AYOVI (Deportivo Quito)
16 Cleber CHALA (Deportivo Quito)
19 Edison MENDEZ (Irapuato, Mex)
5 Alfonso OBREGON (LDU Quito)
13 Luis Fernando SARITAMA (Deportivo Quito)
21 Leonardo SOLEDISPA (Barcelona)
20 Edwin TENORIO (Barcelona)

FORWARDS
14 Johnny BALDEON (Deportivo Quito)
11 Agustin DELGADO (Aucas)
9 Gustavo FIGUEROA (Aucas)
8 Ebelio ORDONEZ (El Nacional)
7 Franklin SALAS (LDU Quito)

Coach: Hernan Dario GOMEZ (Col)

MEXICO

GOALKEEPERS
13 Moises MUNOZ (Morelia)
12 Oscar PEREZ (Cruz Azul)
1 Oswaldo SANCHEZ (Guadalajara)

DEFENDERS
22 Hector ALTAMIRANO (Santos Laguna)
3 Omar BRISENO (Tigres)
18 Salvador CARMONA (Guadalajara)
5 Duilio DAVINO (America)
4 Rafael MARQUEZ (Barcelona, Spa)
16 Mario MENDEZ (Toluca)
20 Ricardo OSORIO (Cruz Azul)
15 David OTEO (Tigres)
2 Claudio SUAREZ (Tigres)
7 Octavio VALDEZ (Pachuca)

MIDFIELDERS
19 Jaime LOZANO (Pumas UNAM)
14 Ramon MORALES (Guadalajara)
8 Pavel PARDO (America)
6 Gerardo TORRADO (Sevilla, Spa)

FORWARDS
21 Jesus ARELLANO (Monterrey)
10 Adolfo BAUTISTA (Guadalajara)
9 Jared BORGETTI (Santos Laguna)
11 Daniel OSORNO (Monterrey)
17 Juan Francisco PALENCIA (Guadalajara)

Coach: Ricardo LAVOLPE (Arg)

PARAGUAY

GOALKEEPERS
12 Diego BARRETO (Cerro Porteno)
1 Justo VILLAR (Libertad)

DEFENDERS
15 Pedro Juan BENITEZ (Cerro Porteno)
14 Ernesto CRISTALDO (Cerro Porteno)
5 Jose DEVACA (Cerro Porteno)
22 Fabio ESCOBAR (Nacional)
17 Celso ESQUIVEL (San Lorenzo, Arg)
4 Carlos GAMARRA (Internazionale, Ita)
18 Derlis GONZALEZ (12 de Octubre)
3 Julio Cesar MANZUR (Guarani)
2 Emilio MARTINEZ (Libertad)
21 Aureliano TORRES (Guarani)
16 David VILLALBA (Olimpia)

MIDFIELDERS
8 Edgar BARRETO (NEC Nijmegen, Hol)
6 Jorge BRITEZ (Olimpia)
20 Julio Daniel DOS SANTOS (Cerro Porteno)
10 Diego FIGUEREDO (Olimpia)
13 Carlos PAREDES (Reggina, Ita)

FORWARDS
9 Fredy BAREIRO (Libertad)
11 Julio GONZALEZ Ferreira (Nacional)
19 Nelson HAEDO (Werder Bremen, Ger)
7 Dante LOPEZ (Cordoba, Spa)

Coach: Carlos JARA SAGUIER

PERU

GOALKEEPERS
21 Leao BUTRON (Alianza Lima)
12 Erick DELGADO (Sporting Cristal)
1 Oscar IBANEZ (Cienciano)

DEFENDERS
2 Santiago ACASIETE (Cienciano)
5 Martin HIDALGO (Alianza Lima)
3 Cesar Miguel REBOSIO (Zaragoza, Spa)
15 Guillermo SALAS (Alianza Lima)
4 Jorge SOTO (Sporting Cristal)
6 Walter Ricardo VILCHES (Alianza Lima)

MIDFIELDERS
19 Marko CIURLIZZA (Alianza Lima)
22 Julio Cesar GARCIA (Cienciano)
18 Pedro GARCIA (Alianza Atletico)
8 Juan Jose JAYO (Alianza Lima)
13 Juan Carlos LA ROSA (Cienciano)
11 Aldo OLCESE (Alianza Lima)
10 Roberto PALACIOS (Morelia, Mex)
7 Nolberto SOLANO (Aston Villa, Eng)
20 Carlos Alberto ZEGARRA (Sporting Cristal)

FORWARDS
17 Jefferson FARFAN (Alianza Lima)
9 Flavio MAESTRI (Vitoria, Bra)
16 Andres MENDOZA (Club Brugge, Blg)
14 Claudio PIZARRO (Bayern Munich, Ger)

Coach: Paulo AUTORI (Bra)

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS
12 Luis BARBAT (Danubio)
1 Mario Sebastian VIERA (Nacional)

DEFENDERS
2 Joe BIZERA (Penarol)
17 Carlos DIOGO (Penarol)
6 Alejandro LAGO (Fenix)
4 Paolo MONTERO (Juventus, Ita)
3 Dario RODRIGUEZ (Schalke, Ger)
14 Guillermo RODRIGUEZ (Danubio)

MIDFIELDERS
16 Javier DELGADO (Saturn Ramenskoye, Rus)
13 Fabian ESTOYANOFF (Fenix)
19 Jorge MARTINEZ (Wanderers)
10 Juan Martin PARODI (Panionios, Gre)
8 Omar POUSO (Danubio)
11 Cristian RODRIGUEZ (Penarol)
5 Marcelo SOSA (Moscow Spartak, Rus)
7 Gustavo VARELA (Schalke, Ger)

FORWARDS
20 Carlos BUENO (Penarol)
21 Diego FORLAN (Manchester United, Eng)
18 Richard MORALES (Osasuna, Spa)
15 Diego PEREZ (Penarol)
22 Vicente SANCHEZ (Toluca, Mex)
9 Dario SILVA (Sevilla, Spa)

Coach: Jorge FOSSATI

VENEZUELA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Gilberto ANGELUCCI (Minero Guayana)
12 Manuel SANHOUSE (Deportivo Tachira)

DEFENDERS
6 Alejandro CICHERO (Nacional, Uru)
4 Jonay HERNANDEZ (Dundee, Sco)
3 Jose Manuel REY (Caracas)
17 Jorge ROJAS (Caracas)
21 Andres ROUGA (Caracas)
2 Luis VALLENILLA (Caracas)
13 Leonel VIELMA (Deportivo Tachira)

MIDFIELDERS
18 Juan ARANGO (Pachuca, Mex)
19 Andree GONZALEZ (Defensor Sporting, Uru)
20 Hector GONZALEZ (Colon Santa Fe, Arg)
14 Leopoldo JIMENEZ (Maracaibo)
5 Miguel MEA VITALI (Caracas)
11 Ricardo PAEZ (Barcelona, Ecu)

FORWARDS
8 Cristian CASSERES (Maracaibo)
22 Pedro DEPABLOS (Deportivo Tachira)
10 Massimo MARGIOTTA (Vicenza, Ita)
16 Ruberth MORAN (Maracaibo)
15 Wilfredo MORENO (Mineros Guayana)
7 Daniel NORIEGA (Independiente Medellin, Col)
9 Alexander RONDON (Sao Paulo, Bra)

Coach: Richard PAEZ

ASIAN CUP

In China

Group A

July 17 - Beijing
China 2 (Zheng Zhi 58, Li Jinyu pen 66)
Bahrain 2 (M Hubail 41, H Ali 89)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)
China: Liu Yunfei - Zheng Zhi, Wei Xin, Li Weifeng, Zhou Ting, Zhao Junzhe, Li Xiaopeng (Shao Jiayi 32; Sun Jihai 78), Yan Song, Zhou Haibin, Hao Haidong (Li Yi 70), Li Jinyu.
Bahrain: Abdulla - Juma, S Mohamed, Baba, Jalal, R Al-Dosari (Farhan 65), Salmeen, Yousuf (Husain 90), M Hubail, Jaffar (H Ali 80), A Hubail.

July 18 - Beijing
Qatar 1 (M Mohamed 83)
Indonesia 2 (Budi 26, Astaman 48)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)
Qatar: Ali - Mesbeh, Al-Khater, Abdulrab (Saad Al-Shammari 32), Rizik, Jadoua, Mohyaden, Karim, Hamzah (Mejbel 46), Gholam, Jouhar (M Mohamed 63).
Indonesia: Kartiko - Ardi, Saputra, Agus, Setyabudi, Pulalo (Hamsah 70), Aiboi (Kurniawan 76), Astaman, Budi (Aliyudin 90), Bachri, Bambang.

July 21 - Beijing
Bahrain 1 (M Hubail 90)
Qatar 1 (Rizik pen 58)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kamizawa (Jap)
Bahrain: Abdulla - Al-Mosawi (S Mohamed 63), Al-Kawari (M Hubail 75), Juma, Baba, Jalal, R Al-Dosari, Salmeen, Yousuf, H Ali (Naser 59), A Hubail.
Qatar: Burhan - Al-Khater, Fath, Mesbeh, B Mohammed, Rizik (Al-Tamimi 84), Jadoua, Saad Al-Shammari, Mohyaden (Karim 72), Bechir, Gholam (Jouhar 31).

July 21 - Beijing
Indonesia 0
China 5 (Shao Jiayi 24, 65, Hao Haidong 39, Li Ming 51, Li Yi 80)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Najim (Lby)
Indonesia: Kartiko - Ardi (Hamsah 6), Saputra, Agus, Setyabudi, Pulalo, Aiboi (Sofyan 34), Astaman, Budi (Kurniawan 70), Bachri, Putiray.
Sent off: Pulalo 30min.
China: Liu Yunfei - Sun Xiang, Zheng Zhi, Wei Xin, Li Weifeng (Zhang Yaokun 86), Li Ming, Shao Jiayi (Zheng Bin 67), Zhao Junzhe, Yan Song, Hao Haidong (Li Yi 46), Li Jinyu.

July 25 - Beijing
China 1 (Xu Yunlong 78)
Qatar 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)
China: Liu Yunfei - Sun Xiang, Zheng Zhi, Xu Yunlong, Li Weifeng, Li Ming, Shao Jiayi (Zhang Yaokun 77), Zhao Junzhe, Yan Song (Zheng Bin 58), Li Yi, Li Jinyu (Sun Jihai 68).
Qatar: Burhan - Al-Khater, Fath, Mesbeh, B Mohammed, Jadoua, Saad Al-Shammari, Mohyaden (Jouhar 80), Karim (Musa 87), Bechir, Hamzah.

July 25 - Jinan
Bahrain 3 (H Ali 43, A Hubail 57, Yousuf 82)
Indonesia 1 (Aiboi 75)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)

Bahrain: Abdulla - Juma, S Mohamed, Baba, Jamal, R Al-Dosari, Salmeen, Yousuf (Naser 85), M Hubail (Al-Mosawi 68), H Ali (Farhan 80), A Hubail. *Sent off: S Mohamed 76min.*
Indonesia: Kartiko - Ardi (Putiray 73), Saputra, Agus, Setyabudi (Hamsah 43), Sofyan, Astaman, Budi, Bachri, Bambang, Kurniawan (Aiboi 54).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Bahrain	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Indonesia	3	1	0	2	3	9	3
Qatar	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Group B

July 19 - Jinan
South Korea 0
Jordan 0
Ref: Maidin (Sin)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-cheul, Kim Tae-young, Lee Min-sung, Kim Nam-il, Hyun Young-min (Kim Jung-kyum 62), Lee Young-pyo, Seol Ki-hyeon, Chung Kyung-ho (Cha Doo-ri 60), Ahn Jung-hwan, Lee Dong-gook. *Sent off: Choi Jin-cheul 82min.*
Jordan: Shafi Sabbah - Sa'ed (Dheeb 86), Al-Awadat, Bani Yaseen, Ibrahim, Akel, Qasem, Abu Alieh, Abu Zema, Shelbaya (Al-Zboun 56), Al-Shaqran (Salim 66).

July 19 - Jinan
Kuwait 3 (B Abdullah 25, Al-Mutawa 40, 45)
United Arab Emirates 1 (Rashid 47)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Al-Hamdan (Sau)
Kuwait: Kankouni - Al-Taher, N Al-Shammari, Neda, K Al-Shammari (Abdulreda 80), Humaidan (Al-Harbi 84), Ateeki, Mussa, N Al-Mutairi, B Abdullah (Al-Buraiki 67), Al-Mutawa.
UAE: J Rashed - Abdulrahman, Saeed, Fakher, S Khater, Qassim, A S Jumaa (Faraj 46), S Rashed, Mubarak (Rashid 45), Saad (Yaslam 73), Matar.

July 23 - Jinan
Jordan 2 (Sa'ed 90, Al-Zboun 90)
Kuwait 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lu (Chn)
Jordan: Shafi Sabbah - Sa'ed, Bani Yaseen, Al-Shboul (Matalka 46), Ibrahim, Akel, Shehdeh (Shelbaya 79), Qasem, Abu Alieh, Dheeb, Salim (Al-Zboun 59). *Sent off: Ibrahim 58min.*
Kuwait: Kankouni - Al-Taher, N Al-Shammari (Ali 72), Neda, K Al-Shammari, Al-Buraiki (Abdulreda 55), Ateeki, Mussa, N Al-Mutairi, B Abdullah (Salama 80), Al-Mutawa.

July 23 - Jinan
United Arab Emirates 0
South Korea 2 (Lee Dong-gook 41, Ahn Jung-hwan 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
UAE: J Rashed - Abdulrahman, Saeed, Fakher, S Khater, Qassim, Abdulla (Mubarak 75), Yaslam (Saad 60), S Rashed, Faraj, Rashid (Matar 33).
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Park Jae-hong, Lee Min-sung, Park Jin-sub, Kim Nam-il, Lee Young-pyo, Lee Eul-yong (Park Ji-sung 46), Seol Ki-hyeon, Cha Doo-ri (Park Yo-seb 58), Lee Dong-gook (Ahn Jung-hwan 80), Kim Jin-kyu. *Sent off: Park Jae-hong 55min.*

July 27 - Beijing
Jordan 0
United Arab Emirates 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Najim (Lby)
Jordan: Shafi Sabbah - Sa'ed, Al-Awadat, Bani Yaseen, Akel, Shehdeh (Dheeb 82), Qasem, Abu Alieh, Abu Zema, Salim (Al-Shboul 88), Al-Shaqran (Al-Zboun 75).
UAE: Salem - Abdulrahman, Saeed, Fakher, S Khater, Qassim, A S Jumaa, S Rashed, Mubarak (Abdulla 81), Faraj (Yaslam 90), Saad.

July 27 - Jinan
South Korea 4 (Lee Dong-gook 24, 40, Cha Doo-ri 45, Ahn Jung-hwan 75)
Kuwait 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-cheul, Lee Min-sung, Park Jin-sub, Kim Nam-il (Park Yo-seb 60), Lee Young-pyo, Seol Ki-hyeon, Cha Doo-ri (Kim Eun-jung 79), Lee Dong-gook (Ahn Jung-hwan 65), Park Ji-sung, Kim Jin-kyu.
Kuwait: Kankouni - Al-Taher, N Al-Shammari, Neda, K Al-Shammari (Abdulreda 75), Ateeki, Mussa (Humaidan 46), N Al-Mutairi, B Abdullah, Al-Mutawa (Al-Hamad 46), Seraj.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	3	2	1	0	6	0	7
Jordan	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
Kuwait	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
UAE	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Group C

July 18 - Chengdu
Saudi Arabia 2 (Al-Qahtani pen 9, 59)
Turkmenistan 2 (N Bayramov 7, Kuliev 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,400. **Ref:** Kunsuta (Tha)
Saudi Arabia: Al-Hargan - Tukar, Al-Qadi (Al-Montasheri 88), Al-Abdali, S Al-Dosari, Sowed, Khariri (Al-Zahrani 66), K Al-Dosari, Al-Janoubi, Al-Qahtani, Al-Bishi (Al-Meshal 59).
Turkmenistan: Naboychenko - Gochguliev, Mingazov, O Berdiyev, Durdiyev (Krendelev 82), Saparov, Kuliev, N Bayramov, Ovekov (Dayanch Urazov 90), V Bayramov, Zemskov (Mirdev 66).

July 18 - Chengdu
Iraq 0
Uzbekistan 1 (Kasimov 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,400. **Ref:** Kwon (SKo)
Iraq: Ahmed Ali - Basim, Haidar Jabar, Haidar Hassan, Salih (Younis 63), Hawar, Mahdi (Hayder Sabbah 75), Qusay, Abdul Wahab (Nashat 67), Emad, Razak. *Sent off: Emad 85min.*
Uzbekistan: Safanov - Ashurmatov (Kapadze 55), Fyodorov, Alikulov, Nikolaev, Kasimov (Innomov 73), Akopyants, Djeparov, Soliev, Shishelov, Geinrikh (Shirshov 84). *Sent off: Nikolaev 81min.*

July 22 - Chengdu
Turkmenistan 2 (V Bayramov 14, Kuliev 85)
Iraq 3 (Hawar 12, Razak 81, Qusay 88)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Al-Fadhli (Kuw)
Turkmenistan: Naboychenko - Gochguliev, Mingazov, O Berdiyev, Durdiyev (Krendelev 75), Saparov, Kuliev, N Bayramov, Ovekov (Mirdev 63), V Bayramov (Dayanch Urazov 81), Zemskov. *Sent off: Mingazov 60min.*
Iraq: Ahmed Ali - Basim, Haidar Jabar, Haidar Hassan, Salih (Nashat 63), Hawar, Mahdi, Qusay, Abdul Wahab (Ahmed Manajid 78), Razak, Ahmad Salah (Younis 46).

July 22 - Chengdu
Uzbekistan 1 (Geinrikh 11)
Saudi Arabia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)
Uzbekistan: Safanov - Fyodorov, Shirshov, Alikulov, Kasimov (Innomov 64), Akopyants, Djeparov, Soliev (Zeytulayev 60), Kapadze, Shishelov, Geinrikh (Bikmoev 78).
Saudi Arabia: Al-Naje - A D Al-Dosari, Tukar, Al-Montasheri, Al-Kaebari, S Al-Dosari (Al-Bishi 84), Sowed, Al-Shlhoob (Al-Meshal 67), K Al-Dosari, Al-Zahrani (Al-Basha 77), Al-Qahtani.

July 26 - Chengdu
Saudi Arabia 1 (Al-Montasheri 56)
Iraq 2 (Nashat 50, Younis 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kwon (SKo)
Saudi Arabia: Al-Naje - A D Al-Dosari, Tukar, Al-Montasheri, Al-Kaebari, Sowed, Khariri (Al-Shlhoob 76), K Al-Dosari, Al-Qahtani, Al-Bishi (Al-Meshal 67), Al-Basha (Al-Otaibi 53).
Iraq: Ahmed Ali - Basim, Haidar Jabar, Haidar Hassan, Hawar, Mahdi (Haidar Abdul 70), Nashat, Qusay, Abdul Wahab (Hassan 36), Emad, Razak (Younis 61).

July 26 - Chongqing
Turkmenistan 0
Uzbekistan 1 (Kasimov 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,000. **Ref:** Kousa (Syr)
Turkmenistan: Harchik - Gochguliev, Rejepov, O Berdiyev, Durdiyev (Krendelev 75), Nazarov (Zemskov 67), Saparov, Kuliev, N Bayramov, Ovekov (Mirdev 84), V Bayramov.
Uzbekistan: Nesterov - Fyodorov, Alikulov, Nikolaev, Koshelev, Kapadze, Magdeev (Soliev 77), Innomov, Bikmoev, Kholmurodov (Shishelov 83), Zeytulayev (Kasimov 46). *Sent off: Innomov 84min.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	3	3	0	0	3	0	9
Iraq	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Turkmenistan	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Saudi Arabia	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Group D

July 20 - Chongqing
Japan 1 (Nakamura 34)
Oman 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka, Miyamoto, Alex, Kaji, Nakazawa, Endo, Nakamura, Fukunishi, T Suzuki (Nishi 85), Tamada (Motoyama 70).
Oman: Al-Habsi - Rabee'a, Ashoon, Yousuf, Ayil, Bashir, Al-Mahanjri (Hubais 64), Hadid (Hamed 75), B Mubarak (Suroor 80), Shaaban, Ali.

July 20 - Chongqing
Iran 3 (Enayati 70, Nekounam 80, Daei pen 86)
Thailand 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Kousa (Syr)
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi (Alavi 84), Rezaei, Kaebi, Badavi, Nosrati, Nekounam, Karimi, Mahdavikia (Zare 87), Daei, Borhani (Enayati 60).
Thailand: Kosin - Niweat, Choketawee, Nirut, Worachai, Nataporn, Datsakorn, Issawa (Sakda 53), Sarayoot (Narongchai 89), Sutee (Pichitpong 65), Rangsan.

July 24 - Chongqing
Oman 2 (Ali 32, 41)
Iran 2 (Karimi 62, Nosrati 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Al-Delawar (Bhn)
Oman: Al-Habsi - Rabee'a, Ashoon, Yousuf, Ayil, Bashir, Al-Mahanjri, Hadid (Al-Mahrouqi 61), B Mubarak (Suroor 81), Shaaban, Ali (Hamed 65).
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi (Kaebi 78), Rezaei, Badavi (Zare 59), Nosrati, Nekounam, Karimi, Alavi, Mahdavikia, Daei, Borhani (Enayati 45).

July 24 - Chongqing
Thailand 1 (Sutee 11)
Japan 4 (Nakamura 21, Nakazawa 56, 87, Fukunishi 68)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Al-Marzouqi (UAE)
Thailand: Kosin - Niweat, Choketawee, Nirut, Worachai (Teda 61), Nataporn, Sakda, Datsakorn (Pichitpong 56), Issawa (Narongchai 70), Sutee, Rangsan.
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka (Ogasawara 46), Miyamoto, Alex, Kaji, Nakazawa, Endo, Nakamura, Fukunishi (K Nakata 89), T Suzuki, Tamada (Motoyama 46).

July 28 - Chengdu
Oman 2 (Rangsan og 11, Ali 49)
Thailand 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Lu (Chn)
Oman: Al-Habsi - Rabee'a, Yousuf (M Mubarak 82), Ashoor, Ayil, Bashir, Al-Mahanjri, Hadid (Al-Mahrouqi 70), B Mubarak (Hamed 46), Shaaban, Ali.
Thailand: Punuwat - Niweat, Preratat, Choketawee, Narongchai (Datsakorn 60), Teda, Issawa (Jetsada 53), Pichitpong, Sarayoot (Phaitoon 71), Sutee, Rangsan.

July 28 - Chongqing
Japan 0
Iran 0
Att: 52,000. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka, Miyamoto, Alex, Kaji, Nakazawa, Endo, Nakamura, Fukunishi, T Suzuki (Motoyama 70), Tamada.
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi, Kaebi, Taghipour (Mobali 67), Kameli-Mofrad, Zare, Nekounam, Karimi, Alavi, Mahdavikia, Daei.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Iran	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Oman	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Thailand	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Quarter-finals

July 30 - Chengdu
Uzbekistan 2 (Geinrikh 60, Shishelov 86)
Bahrain 2 (A Hubail 71, 76)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Kwon (SKo)
Bahrain 4-3 on pens
Uzbekistan: Safanov - Fyodorov, Alikulov, Nikolaev, Kasimov (Koshelev 106), Akopyants, Djeparov, Soliev (Magdeev 33), Kapadze (Bikmoev 83), Shishelov, Geinrikh.
Bahrain: Abdulla - Abdulaziz, Juma, Baba, Jalal (Isa 67), R Al-Dosari, Salmeen, Yousuf (Farhan 85), M Hubail, Jaffar (H Ali 59), A Hubail.

July 30 - Beijing
China 3 (Hao Haidong 8, Zheng Zhi pen 79, pen 90)
Iraq 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
China: Liu Yunfei - Sun Xiang, Zheng Zhi, Wei Xin (Xu Yunlong 26), Li Weifeng, Li Ming, Shao Jiayi, Zhao Junzhe, Yan Song (Zheng Bin 90), Hao Haidong (Sun Jihai 73), Li Jinyu.
Iraq: Ahmed Ali - Basim, Haidar Jabar, Haidar Hassan, Hawar, Hassan (Salih 46), Mahdi (Emad 61), Nashat, Qusay, Razak (Ahmad Salah 82), Younis. *Sent off: Ahmed Ali 90min.*

July 31 - Chongqing
Japan 1 (T Suzuki 14)
Jordan 1 (Shelbaya 11)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 52,000.
Ref: Mohd Salleh (Mly)
Japan 4-3 on pens
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka (Matsuda 115), Miyamoto, Alex, Kaji, Nakazawa, Endo (K Nakata 56), Nakamura, Fukunishi, T Suzuki, Tamada (Motoyama 72).
Jordan: Shafi Sabbah - Sa'ed (Al-Shboul 109), Al-Awadat, Bani Yaseen, Ibrahim, Akel, Qasem, Abu Alieh, Abu Zema, Shelbaya (Dheeb 74), Salim (Al-Zboun 69).

July 31 - Jinan
South Korea 3 (Seol Ki-hyeon 16, Lee Dong-gook 25, Kim Nam-il 68)
Iran 4 (Karimi 10, 20, 77, Park Jin-sub og 51)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Al-Fadhli (Kuw)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-cheul, Lee Young-pyo, Lee Min-sung (Park Yo-seb 86), Park Jin-sub (Ahn Jung-hwan 64), Kim Nam-il, Seol Ki-hyeon, Lee Dong-gook, Park Ji-sung, Kim Jin-kyu, Cha Doo-ri (Chung Kyung-ho 75).
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi, Kaebi (Amirabadi 90), Taghipour (Mobali 17), Kameli-Mofrad, Zare, Mahdavikia, Nekounam, Karimi, Alavi, Daei.

Semi-finals

Aug 3 - Jinan
Bahrain 3 (A Hubail 6, 71, Naser 85)
Japan 4 (K Nakata 48, Tamada 55, 93, Nakazawa 90)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 3-3. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
Bahrain: Abdulla - Abdulaziz, Juma (Jaffar 102), Isa, Baba, R Al-Dosari, Salmeen (Jalal 69), Yousuf, M Hubail, H Ali (Naser 63), A Hubail. *Sent off: Jalal 107min.*
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka (K Nakata 44), Miyamoto, Alex, Kaji (Nishi 87), Nakazawa, Endo, Nakamura, Fukunishi (Ogasawara 46), T Suzuki, Tamada. *Sent off: Endo 40min.*

Aug 3 - Beijing
China 1 (Shao Jiayi 19)
Iran 1 (Alavi 38)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Najim (Lby)
China 4-3 on pens
China: Liu Yunfei - Sun Xiang, Zhang Yaokun, Zheng Zhi, Li Weifeng, Li Ming (Yan Song 75), Shao Jiayi, Zheng Bin (Li Xiaopeng 102), Zhao Junzhe, Hao Haidong (Sun Jihai 29), Li Jinyu.
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi, Rezaei, Kaebi (Taghipour 118), Kameli-Mofrad (Mobali 118), Zare, Nekounam, Karimi, Alavi (Badavi 52), Mahdavikia, Daei. *Sent off: Zare 48min, Alavi (from the bench) 83min.*

Third-place play-off

Aug 6 - Beijing
Iran 4 (Nekounam 9, Karimi 52, Daei pen 80, 90)
Bahrain 2 (Yousuf 48, Farhan 57)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al-Marzouqi (UAE)
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi (Mobali 57; Majidi 90), Rezaei, Kaebi, Badavi, Kameli-Mofrad, Nekounam, Karimi, Mahdavikia, Daei, Enayati (Borhani 53). *Sent off: Borhani 72min, Mahdavikia 90min.*
Bahrain: Abdulkarim - Husain, Al-Kawari (M Hubail 86), Isa, S Mohamed (H Ali 84), Baba, Salmeen, Yousuf, Farhan, Naser (R Al-Dosari 60), A Hubail. *Sent off: Yousuf 90min.*

Final

Aug 7 - Beijing
China 1 (Li Ming 31)
Japan 3 (Fukunishi 22, K Nakata 65, Tamada 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 62,000. **Ref:** Al-Fadhli (Kuw)
China: Liu Yunfei - Sun Xiang, Zhang Yaokun, Zheng Zhi, Wei Xin, Li Ming, Shao Jiayi, Zhao Junzhe, Yan Song (Sun Jihai 68), Hao Haidong (Li Yi 57), Li Jinyu (Xu Yunlong 75).
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka, Miyamoto, Alex, Kaji, Nakazawa, K Nakata, Nakamura, Fukunishi, T Suzuki, Tamada.

2006 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

AFRICA

5 finals berths

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Congo	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Senegal	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Togo	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Zambia	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Liberia	3	1	1	1	1	3	4
Mali	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

05.06.04 .....Senegal-Congo.....2-0
05.06.04 .....Zambia-Togo.....1-0
06.06.04 .....Liberia-Mali.....1-0
19.06.04 .....Mali-Zambia.....1-1
20.06.04 .....Congo-Liberia.....3-0
20.06.04 .....Togo-Senegal.....3-1
03.07.04 .....Senegal-Zambia.....1-0
04.07.04 .....Congo-Mali.....1-0
04.07.04 .....Liberia-Togo.....0-0
04.09.04 .....Zambia-Liberia
05.09.04 .....Mali-Senegal
05.09.04 .....Togo-Congo
08.10.04 .....Congo-Zambia
08.10.04 .....Liberia-Senegal
08.10.04 .....Togo-Mali
25.03.05 .....Mali-Togo
25.03.05 .....Senegal-Liberia
25.03.05 .....Zambia-Congo
03.06.05 .....Congo-Senegal
03.06.05 .....Mali-Liberia
03.06.05 .....Togo-Zambia
17.06.05 .....Liberia-Congo
17.06.05 .....Senegal-Togo
17.06.05 .....Zambia-Mali
02.09.05 .....Mali-Congo
02.09.05 .....Togo-Liberia
02.09.05 .....Zambia-Senegal
07.10.05 .....Congo-Togo
07.10.05 .....Liberia-Zambia
07.10.05 .....Senegal-Mali

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Ghana	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
DR Congo	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Cape Verde Is	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Uganda	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Burkina Faso	3	1	0	2	3	5	3

05.06.04 .....Burkina Faso-Ghana.....1-0
05.06.04 .....South Africa-Cape Verde Is.....2-1
05.06.04 .....Uganda-DR Congo.....1-0
19.06.04 .....Cape Verde Is-Uganda.....1-0
20.06.04 .....DR Congo-Burkina Faso.....3-2
20.06.04 .....Ghana-South Africa.....3-0
03.07.04 .....Cape Verde Is-DR Congo.....1-1
03.07.04 .....South Africa-Burkina Faso.....2-0
03.07.04 .....Uganda-Ghana.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Burkina Faso-Uganda
05.09.04 .....DR Congo-South Africa
05.09.04 .....Ghana-Cape Verde Is
08.10.04 .....Cape Verde Is-Burkina Faso
08.10.04 .....Ghana-DR Congo
08.10.04 .....Uganda-South Africa
25.03.05 .....Burkina Faso-Cape Verde Is
25.03.05 .....DR Congo-Ghana
25.03.05 .....South Africa-Uganda
03.06.05 .....Cape Verde Is-South Africa
03.06.05 .....DR Congo-Uganda
03.06.05 .....Ghana-Burkina Faso
17.06.05 .....Burkina Faso-DR Congo
17.06.05 .....South Africa-Ghana
17.06.05 .....Uganda-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 .....Burkina Faso-South Africa
02.09.05 .....DR Congo-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 .....Ghana-Uganda
07.10.05 .....Cape Verde Is-Ghana
07.10.05 .....South Africa-DR Congo
07.10.05 .....Uganda-Burkina Faso

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Ivory Coast	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Egypt	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Libya	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Benin	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Sudan	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

06.06.04 .....Cameroon-Benin.....2-1
06.06.04 .....Ivory Coast-Libya.....2-0
06.06.04 .....Sudan-Egypt.....0-3
18.06.04 .....Libya-Cameroon.....0-0
20.06.04 .....Benin-Sudan.....1-1
20.06.04 .....Egypt-Ivory Coast.....1-2
03.07.04 .....Sudan-Libya.....0-1
04.07.04 .....Benin-Egypt.....3-3
04.07.04 .....Cameroon-Ivory Coast.....2-0
03.09.04 .....Libya-Benin
05.09.04 .....Egypt-Cameroon
05.09.04 .....Ivory Coast-Sudan
08.10.04 .....Benin-Ivory Coast
08.10.04 .....Libya-Egypt
08.10.04 .....Sudan-Cameroon
25.03.05 .....Cameroon-Sudan
25.03.05 .....Egypt-Libya
25.03.05 .....Ivory Coast-Benin
03.06.05 .....Benin-Cameroon
03.06.05 .....Egypt-Sudan
03.06.05 .....Libya-Ivory Coast
17.06.05 .....Cameroon-Libya
17.06.05 .....Ivory Coast-Egypt
17.06.05 .....Sudan-Benin
02.09.05 .....Egypt-Benin
02.09.05 .....Ivory Coast-Cameroon
02.09.05 .....Libya-Sudan
07.10.05 .....Benin-Libya
07.10.05 .....Cameroon-Egypt
07.10.05 .....Sudan-Ivory Coast

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Zimbabwe	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Angola	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Rwanda	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Algeria	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Gabon	3	0	2	1	4	6	2

05.06.04 .....Algeria-Angola.....0-0
05.06.04 .....Gabon-Zimbabwe.....1-1
05.06.04 .....Nigeria-Rwanda.....2-0
19.06.04 .....Rwanda-Gabon.....3-1
20.06.04 .....Angola-Nigeria.....1-0
20.06.04 .....Zimbabwe-Algeria.....1-1
03.07.04 .....Gabon-Angola.....2-2
03.07.04 .....Nigeria-Algeria.....1-0
03.07.04 .....Rwanda-Zimbabwe.....0-2
03.09.04 .....Zimbabwe-Nigeria
04.09.04 .....Algeria-Gabon
05.09.04 .....Angola-Rwanda
08.10.04 .....Angola-Zimbabwe
08.10.04 .....Gabon-Nigeria
08.10.04 .....Rwanda-Algeria
25.03.05 .....Algeria-Rwanda
25.03.05 .....Nigeria-Gabon
25.03.05 .....Zimbabwe-Angola
03.06.05 .....Angola-Algeria
03.06.05 .....Rwanda-Nigeria
03.06.05 .....Zimbabwe-Gabon
17.06.05 .....Algeria-Zimbabwe
17.06.05 .....Gabon-Rwanda
17.06.05 .....Nigeria-Angola
02.09.05 .....Algeria-Nigeria
02.09.05 .....Angola-Gabon
02.09.05 .....Zimbabwe-Rwanda
07.10.05 .....Gabon-Algeria
07.10.05 .....Nigeria-Zimbabwe
07.10.05 .....Rwanda-Angola

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Morocco	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Tunisia	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Botswana	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Malawi	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

05.06.04 .....Malawi-Morocco.....1-1
05.06.04 .....Tunisia-Botswana.....4-1
19.06.04 .....Botswana-Malawi.....2-0
20.06.04 .....Guinea-Tunisia.....2-1
03.07.04 .....Botswana-Morocco.....0-1
03.07.04 .....Malawi-Guinea.....1-1
03.09.04 .....Morocco-Tunisia
03.09.04 .....Guinea-Botswana
04.09.04 .....Kenya-Malawi
08.10.04 .....Malawi-Tunisia
08.10.04 .....Guinea-Morocco
09.10.04 .....Botswana-Kenya
25.03.05 .....Kenya-Botswana
25.03.05 .....Morocco-Guinea
25.03.05 .....Tunisia-Malawi
03.06.05 .....Morocco-Malawi
03.06.05 .....Botswana-Tunisia
03.06.05 .....Guinea-Kenya
17.06.05 .....Kenya-Morocco
17.06.05 .....Malawi-Botswana
17.06.05 .....Tunisia-Guinea
02.09.05 .....Kenya-Tunisia
02.09.05 .....Morocco-Botswana
02.09.05 .....Guinea-Malawi
07.10.05 .....Malawi-Kenya
07.10.05 .....Tunisia-Morocco
07.10.05 .....Botswana-Guinea
tbc .....Kenya-Guinea
tbc .....Morocco-Kenya
tbc .....Tunisia-Kenya

Group winners qualify for finals

ASIA

4.5 finals berths

1st stage

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jordan	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Iran	3	2	0	1	10	2	6
Qatar	3	1	0	2	6	4	3
Laos	3	0	0	3	0	17	0

18.02.04 .....Iran-Qatar.....3-1
18.02.04 .....Jordan-Laos.....5-0
31.03.04 .....Jordan-Qatar.....1-0
31.03.04 .....Laos-Iran.....0-7
09.06.04 .....Iran-Jordan.....0-1
09.06.04 .....Qatar-Laos.....5-0
08.09.04 .....Jordan-Iran
08.09.04 .....Laos-Qatar
13.10.04 .....Laos-Jordan
13.10.04 .....Qatar-Iran
17.11.04 .....Iran-Laos
17.11.04 .....Qatar-Jordan

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Iraq	3	1	2	0	8	3	5
Palestine	3	1	1	1	9	4	4
Taiwan	3	0	0	3	1	15	0

18.02.04 .....Palestine-Taiwan.....8-0
18.02.04 .....Uzbekistan-Iraq.....1-1
31.03.04 .....Palestine-Iraq.....1-1
31.03.04 .....Taiwan-Uzbekistan.....0-1
09.06.04 .....Iraq-Taiwan.....6-1
09.06.04 .....Uzbekistan-Palestine.....3-0
08.09.04 .....Palestine-Uzbekistan
08.09.04 .....Taiwan-Iraq
13.10.04 .....Iraq-Uzbekistan
13.10.04 .....Taiwan-Palestine
17.11.04 .....Iraq-Palestine
17.11.04 .....Uzbekistan-Taiwan

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Oman	3	2	0	1	12	2	6
India	3	1	0	2	2	12	3
Singapore	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

18.02.04 .....India-Singapore.....1-0
18.02.04 .....Japan-Oman.....1-0
31.03.04 .....India-Oman.....1-5
31.03.04 .....Singapore-Japan.....1-2
09.06.04 .....Japan-India.....7-0
09.06.04 .....Oman-Singapore.....7-0
08.09.04 .....India-Japan
08.09.04 .....Singapore-Oman
13.10.04 .....Oman-Japan
13.10.04 .....Singapore-India
17.11.04 .....Japan-Singapore
17.11.04 .....Oman-India

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Kuwait	3	2	0	1	6	1	6
Hong Kong	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Malaysia	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

18.02.04 .....China-Kuwait.....1-0
18.02.04 .....Malaysia-Hong Kong.....1-3
31.03.04 .....Hong Kong-China.....0-1
31.03.04 .....Malaysia-Kuwait.....0-2
09.06.04 .....China-Malaysia.....4-0
09.06.04 .....Kuwait-Hong Kong.....4-0
08.09.04 .....Hong Kong-Kuwait
08.09.04 .....Malaysia-China
13.10.04 .....Hong Kong-Malaysia
13.10.04 .....Kuwait-China
17.11.04 .....China-Hong Kong
17.11.04 .....Kuwait-Malaysia

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
North Korea	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Thailand	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Yemen	3	0	1	2	1	7	1

18.02.04 .....UAE-Thailand.....1-0
18.02.04 .....Yemen-North Korea.....1-1
31.03.04 .....North Korea-UAE.....0-0
31.03.04 .....Yemen-Thailand.....0-3
09.06.04 .....Thailand-North Korea.....1-4
09.06.04 .....UAE-Yemen.....3-0
08.09.04 .....North Korea-Thailand
08.09.04 .....Yemen-UAE
13.10.04 .....North Korea-Yemen
13.10.04 .....Thailand-UAE
17.11.04 .....Thailand-Yemen
17.11.04 .....UAE-North Korea

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Syria	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Tajikistan	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Kyrgyzstan	3	0	1	2	2	8	1

18.02.04 .....Bahrain-Syria.....2-1
18.02.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan.....1-2
31.03.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Syria.....1-1
31.03.04 .....Tajikistan-Bahrain.....0-0
09.06.04 .....Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan.....5-0
10.06.04 .....Syria-Tajikistan.....2-1
08.09.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Bahrain
08.09.04 .....Tajikistan-Syria
13.10.04 .....Syria-Bahrain
13.10.04 .....Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan
17.11.04 .....Bahrain-Tajikistan
17.11.04 .....Syria-Kyrgyzstan

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Lebanon	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Vietnam	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Maldives	3	0	1	2	0	7	1

18.02.04 .....South Korea-Lebanon.....2-0
18.02.04 .....Vietnam-Maldives.....4-0
31.03.04 .....Maldives-South Korea.....0-0
31.03.04 .....Vietnam-Lebanon.....0-2
09.06.04 .....Lebanon-Maldives.....3-0
09.06.04 .....South Korea-Vietnam.....2-0
08.09.04 .....Maldives-Lebanon
08.09.04 .....Vietnam-South Korea
13.10.04 .....Lebanon-South Korea
13.10.04 .....Maldives-Vietnam
17.11.04 .....Lebanon-Vietnam
17.11.04 .....South Korea-Maldives

Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Turkmenistan	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Indonesia	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
Sri Lanka	3	0	0	3	0	4	0

18.02.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Indonesia.....3-0
18.02.04 .....Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka.....2-0
31.03.04 .....Sri Lanka-Saudi Arabia.....0-1
31.03.04 .....Turkmenistan-Indonesia.....3-1
09.06.04 .....Indonesia-Sri Lanka.....1-0

09.06.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Turkmenistan 3-0
08.09.04 .....Sri Lanka-Indonesia
08.09.04 .....Turkmenistan-Saudi Arabia
13.10.04 .....Indonesia-Saudi Arabia
13.10.04 .....Sri Lanka-Turkmenistan
17.11.04 .....Indonesia-Turkmenistan
17.11.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Sri Lanka

Group winners advance to 2nd stage

2nd stage

The eight qualifiers are divided into two groups of four. The winners and runners-up of these groups qualify for finals. The two third-placed sides meet in a two-leg play-off, the winner of which meets the fourth-placed CONCACAF team over two legs for a place in finals

CONCACAF

3.5 finals berths

2nd stage

Group 1

18.08.04 .....El Salvador-Panama
18.08.04 .....Jamaica-United States
04.09.04 .....Jamaica-Panama
04.09.04 .....United States-El Salvador
08.09.04 .....El Salvador-Jamaica
08.09.04 .....Panama-United States
09.10.04 .....El Salvador-United States
09.10.04 .....Panama-Jamaica
13.10.04 .....Jamaica-El Salvador
13.10.04 .....United States-Panama
17.11.04 .....Panama-El Salvador
17.11.04 .....United States-Jamaica

Group 2

18.08.04 .....Canada-Guatemala
18.08.04 .....Costa Rica-Honduras
04.09.04 .....Canada-Honduras
05.09.04 .....Guatemala-Costa Rica
08.09.04 .....Costa Rica-Canada
08.09.04 .....Honduras-Guatemala
09.10.04 .....Costa Rica-Guatemala
09.10.04 .....Honduras-Canada
13.10.04 .....Canada-Costa Rica
13.10.04 .....Guatemala-Honduras
17.11.04 .....Guatemala-Canada
17.11.04 .....Honduras-Costa Rica

Group 3

18.08.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-Mexico
18.08.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-Trinidad & Tob
04.09.04 .....Mexico-St Vincent/G'dines
04.09.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-Trinidad & Tob
08.09.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-St Kitts & Nevis
08.09.04 .....Trinidad & Tob-Mexico
09.10.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-Mexico
09.10.04 .....Trinidad & Tob-St Kitts & Nevis
13.10.04 .....Mexico-Trinidad & Tob
13.10.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-St Vincent/G'dines
17.11.04 .....Mexico-St Kitts & Nevis
17.11.04 .....Trinidad & Tob-St Vincent/G'dines

Top two from each group advance to 3rd stage

3rd stage

The six qualifiers play in a single group, the top three from which qualify for finals. The fourth-placed team meet the winners of the Asian play-off over two legs for a place in finals

EUROPE

14 finals berths (including hosts Germany, who qualify automatically)

Group 1

18.08.04 .....Macedonia-Armenia
18.08.04 .....Romania-Finland
04.09.04 .....Finland-Andorra
04.09.04 .....Romania-Macedonia
08.09.04 .....Andorra-Romania
08.09.04 .....Armenia-Finland
08.09.04 .....Holland-Czech Republic
09.10.04 .....Czech Republic-Romania
09.10.04 .....Finland-Armenia
09.10.04 .....Macedonia-Holland
13.10.04 .....Andorra-Macedonia
13.10.04 .....Armenia-Czech Republic
13.10.04 .....Holland-Finland
17.11.04 .....Andorra-Holland
17.11.04 .....Armenia-Romania
17.11.04 .....Macedonia-Czech Republic
09.02.05 .....Macedonia-Andorra
26.03.05 .....Armenia-Andorra
26.03.05 .....Czech Republic-Finland
26.03.05 .....Romania-Holland
30.03.05 .....Andorra-Czech Republic
30.03.05 .....Holland-Armenia
30.03.05 .....Macedonia-Romania
04.06.05 .....Armenia-Macedonia
04.06.05 .....Czech Republic-Andorra
04.06.05 .....Holland-Romania
08.06.05 .....Czech Republic-Macedonia
08.06.05 .....Finland-Holland
08.06.05 .....Romania-Armenia
17.08.05 .....Macedonia-Finland
17.08.05 .....Romania-Andorra
03.09.05 .....Andorra-Finland
03.09.05 .....Armenia-Holland
03.09.05 .....Romania-Czech Republic
07.09.05 .....Czech Republic-Armenia
07.09.05 .....Finland-Macedonia
07.09.05 .....Holland-Andorra
08.10.05 .....Czech Republic-Holland
08.10.05 .....Finland-Romania
12.10.05 .....Andorra-Armenia
12.10.05 .....Finland-Czech Republic
12.10.05 .....Holland-Macedonia

Group 2

04.09.04 .....Albania-Greece
04.09.04 .....Denmark-Ukraine
04.09.04 .....Turkey-Georgia
08.09.04 .....Georgia-Albania
08.09.04 .....Greece-Turkey
08.09.04 .....Kazakhstan-Ukraine
09.10.04 .....Albania-Denmark
09.10.04 .....Turkey-Kazakhstan
09.10.04 .....Ukraine-Greece
13.10.04 .....Denmark-Turkey
13.10.04 .....Kazakhstan-Albania
13.10.04 .....Ukraine-Georgia
17.11.04 .....Georgia-Denmark
17.11.04 .....Greece-Kazakhstan
17.11.04 .....Turkey-Ukraine
09.02.05 .....Albania-Ukraine
09.02.05 .....Greece-Denmark
26.03.05 .....Denmark-Kazakhstan
26.03.05 .....Georgia-Greece
26.03.05 .....Turkey-Albania
30.03.05 .....Georgia-Turkey
30.03.05 .....Greece-Albania
30.03.05 .....Ukraine-Denmark
04.06.05 .....Albania-Georgia
04.06.05 .....Turkey-Greece
04.06.05 .....Ukraine-Kazakhstan
08.06.05 .....Denmark-Albania
08.06.05 .....Greece-Ukraine
08.06.05 .....Kazakhstan-Turkey
17.08.05 .....Kazakhstan-Georgia
03.09.05 .....Albania-Kazakhstan
03.09.05 .....Georgia-Ukraine
03.09.05 .....Turkey-Denmark
07.09.05 .....Denmark-Georgia
07.09.05 .....Kazakhstan-Greece
07.09.05 .....Ukraine-Turkey
08.10.05 .....Denmark-Greece
08.10.05 .....Georgia-Kazakhstan
08.10.05 .....Ukraine-Albania
12.10.05 .....Albania-Turkey
12.10.05 .....Greece-Georgia
12.10.05 .....Kazakhstan-Denmark

Group 3

18.08.04 .....Liechtenstein-Estonia
18.08.04 .....Slovakia-Luxembourg
04.09.04 .....Estonia-Luxembourg
04.09.04 .....Latvia-Portugal
04.09.04 .....Russia-Slovakia
08.09.04 .....Luxembourg-Latvia
08.09.04 .....Portugal-Estonia
08.09.04 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein
09.10.04 .....Liechtenstein-Portugal
09.10.04 .....Luxembourg-Russia
09.10.04 .....Slovakia-Latvia
13.10.04 .....Latvia-Estonia
13.10.04 .....Luxembourg-Liechtenstein
13.10.04 .....Portugal-Russia
17.11.04 .....Liechtenstein-Latvia
17.11.04 .....Luxembourg-Portugal
17.11.04 .....Russia-Estonia
26.03.05 .....Estonia-Slovakia
26.03.05 .....Liechtenstein-Russia
30.03.05 .....Estonia-Russia
30.03.05 .....Latvia-Luxembourg
30.03.05 .....Slovakia-Portugal
04.06.05 .....Estonia-Liechtenstein
04.06.05 .....Portugal-Slovakia
04.06.05 .....Russia-Latvia
08.06.05 .....Estonia-Portugal
08.06.05 .....Latvia-Liechtenstein
08.06.05 .....Luxembourg-Slovakia
17.08.05 .....Latvia-Russia
17.08.05 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
03.09.05 .....Estonia-Latvia
03.09.05 .....Portugal-Luxembourg
03.09.05 .....Russia-Liechtenstein
07.09.05 .....Latvia-Slovakia
07.09.05 .....Liechtenstein-Luxembourg
07.09.05 .....Russia-Portugal
08.10.05 .....Portugal-Liechtenstein
08.10.05 .....Russia-Luxembourg
08.10.05 .....Slovakia-Estonia
12.10.05 .....Luxembourg-Estonia
12.10.05 .....Portugal-Latvia
12.10.05 .....Slovakia-Russia

Group 4

04.09.04 .....France-Israel
04.09.04 .....Rep Ireland-Cyprus
04.09.04 .....Switzerland-Faroe Islands
08.09.04 .....Faroe Islands-France
08.09.04 .....Israel-Cyprus
08.09.04 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland
09.10.04 .....Cyprus-Faroe Islands
09.10.04 .....France-Rep Ireland
09.10.04 .....Israel-Switzerland
13.10.04 .....Cyprus-France
13.10.04 .....Rep Ireland-Faroe Islands
17.11.04 .....Cyprus-Israel
26.03.05 .....Israel-Rep Ireland
26.03.05 .....France-Switzerland
30.03.05 .....Israel-France
30.03.05 .....Switzerland-Cyprus
04.06.05 .....Faroe Islands-Switzerland
04.06.05 .....Rep Ireland-Israel
08.06.05 .....Faroe Islands-Rep Ireland
17.08.05 .....Faroe Islands-Cyprus
03.09.05 .....France-Faroe Islands
03.09.05 .....Switzerland-Israel
07.09.05 .....Cyprus-Switzerland
07.09.05 .....Faroe Islands-Israel
07.09.05 .....Rep Ireland-France
08.10.05 .....Cyprus-Rep Ireland
08.10.05 .....Switzerland-France
08.10.05 .....Israel-Faroe Islands
12.10.05 .....France-Cyprus
12.10.05 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland

Group 5

04.09.04 .....Italy-Norway
04.09.04 .....Slovenia-Moldova
08.09.04 .....Moldova-Italy
08.09.04 .....Norway-Belarus
08.09.04 .....Scotland-Slovenia
09.10.04 .....Belarus-Moldova
09.10.04 .....Scotland-Norway
09.10.04 .....Slovenia-Italy
13.10.04 .....Italy-Belarus
13.10.04 .....Moldova-Scotland
13.10.04 .....Norway-Slovenia
26.03.05 .....Italy-Scotland
30.03.05 .....Moldova-Norway
30.03.05 .....Slovenia-Belarus
04.06.05 .....Belarus-Slovenia
04.06.05 .....Norway-Italy
04.06.05 .....Scotland-Moldova
08.06.05 .....Belarus-Scotland
03.09.05 .....Moldova-Belarus
03.09.05 .....Scotland-Italy
03.09.05 .....Slovenia-Norway
07.09.05 .....Belarus-Italy
07.09.05 .....Moldova-Slovenia
07.09.05 .....Norway-Scotland
08.10.05 .....Italy-Slovenia
08.10.05 .....Norway-Moldova
08.10.05 .....Scotland-Belarus
12.10.05 .....Belarus-Norway
12.10.05 .....Italy-Moldova
12.10.05 .....Slovenia-Scotland

Group 6

04.09.04 .....Austria-England
04.09.04 .....Azerbaijan-Wales
04.09.04 .....Northern Ireland-Poland
08.09.04 .....Austria-Azerbaijan
08.09.04 .....Poland-England
08.09.04 .....Wales-Northern Ireland
09.10.04 .....Austria-Poland
09.10.04 .....Azerbaijan-Northern Ireland
09.10.04 .....England-Wales
13.10.04 .....Azerbaijan-England
13.10.04 .....Northern Ireland-Austria
13.10.04 .....Wales-Poland
26.03.05 .....England-Northern Ireland
26.03.05 .....Poland-Azerbaijan
26.03.05 .....Wales-Austria
30.03.05 .....Austria-Wales
30.03.05 .....England-Azerbaijan
30.03.05 .....Poland-Northern Ireland
04.06.05 .....Azerbaijan-Poland
03.09.05 .....Northern Ireland-Azerbaijan
03.09.05 .....Poland-Austria
03.09.05 .....Wales-England
07.09.05 .....Azerbaijan-Austria
07.09.05 .....Northern Ireland-England
07.09.05 .....Poland-Wales
08.10.05 .....England-Austria
08.10.05 .....Northern Ireland-Wales
12.10.05 .....Austria-Northern Ireland
12.10.05 .....England-Poland
12.10.05 .....Wales-Azerbaijan

Group 7

04.09.04 .....Belgium-Lithuania
04.09.04 .....San Marino-Serbia & Montenegro
08.09.04 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain
08.09.04 .....Lithuania-San Marino
09.10.04 .....Bosnia-Herz.-Serbia & Montenegro
09.10.04 .....Spain-Belgium
13.10.04 .....Lithuania-Spain
13.10.04 .....Serbia & Montenegro-San Marino
17.11.04 .....Belgium-Serbia & Montenegro
17.11.04 .....San Marino-Lithuania
09.02.05 .....Spain-San Marino
26.03.05 .....Belgium-Bosnia-Herzegovina
30.03.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania
30.03.05 .....San Marino-Belgium
30.03.05 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Spain
04.06.05 .....San Marino-Bosnia-Herzegovina
04.06.05 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Belgium
04.06.05 .....Spain-Lithuania
08.06.05 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina
03.09.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Belgium
03.09.05 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Lithuania
07.09.05 .....Belgium-San Marino
07.09.05 .....Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
07.09.05 .....Spain-Serbia & Montenegro
08.10.05 .....Belgium-Spain
08.10.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-San Marino
08.10.05 .....Lithuania-Serbia & Montenegro
12.10.05 .....Lithuania-Belgium
12.10.05 .....San Marino-Spain
12.10.05 .....Serbia & Montenegro-Bosnia-Herz.

Group 8

04.09.04 .....Croatia-Hungary
04.09.04 .....Iceland-Bulgaria
04.09.04 .....Malta-Sweden
08.09.04 .....Hungary-Iceland
08.09.04 .....Sweden-Croatia
09.10.04 .....Croatia-Bulgaria
09.10.04 .....Malta-Iceland
09.10.04 .....Sweden-Hungary
13.10.04 .....Bulgaria-Malta
13.10.04 .....Iceland-Sweden
17.11.04 .....Malta-Hungary
26.03.05 .....Bulgaria-Sweden
26.03.05 .....Croatia-Iceland
30.03.05 .....Croatia-Malta
30.03.05 .....Hungary-Bulgaria
04.06.05 .....Bulgaria-Croatia
04.06.05 .....Iceland-Hungary
04.06.05 .....Sweden-Malta
08.06.05 .....Iceland-Malta
03.09.05 .....Hungary-Malta
03.09.05 .....Iceland-Croatia
03.09.05 .....Sweden-Bulgaria
07.09.05 .....Bulgaria-Iceland
07.09.05 .....Hungary-Sweden
07.09.05 .....Malta-Croatia
08.10.05 .....Bulgaria-Hungary
08.10.05 .....Croatia-Sweden
12.10.05 .....Hungary-Croatia
12.10.05 .....Malta-Bulgaria
12.10.05 .....Sweden-Iceland

Group winners and the two best runners-up qualify for finals. The other six runners-up are paired in three two-leg play-off matches, the winners of which also qualify for finals

OCEANIA

0.5 finals berths

3rd stage

Australia and the Solomon Islands meet in a two-leg play-off in September 2005, the winners of which meet the fifth-placed South American team over two legs for a place in finals

SOUTH AMERICA

4.5 finals berths

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	7	3	4	0	11	7	13
Argentina	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
Chile	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Paraguay	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
Ecuador	7	3	1	3	8	7	10
Venezuela	7	3	1	3	6	7	10
Peru	7	2	3	2	9	7	9
Colombia	7	2	1	4	10	10	7
Uruguay	7	2	1	4	12	19	7
Bolivia	7	2	0	5	9	16	6

06.09.03 .....Argentina-Chile 2-2
06.09.03 .....Ecuador-Venezuela 2-0
06.09.03 .....Peru-Paraguay 4-1
07.09.03 .....Colombia-Brazil 1-2
07.09.03 .....Uruguay-Bolivia 5-0
09.09.03 .....Chile-Peru 2-1
09.09.03 .....Venezuela-Argentina 0-3
10.09.03 .....Bolivia-Colombia 4-0
10.09.03 .....Brazil-Ecuador 1-0
10.09.03 .....Paraguay-Uruguay 4-1
15.11.03 .....Argentina-Bolivia 3-0
15.11.03 .....Colombia-Venezuela 0-1
15.11.03 .....Paraguay-Ecuador 2-1
15.11.03 .....Uruguay-Chile 2-1
16.11.03 .....Peru-Brazil 1-1
18.11.03 .....Chile-Paraguay 0-1
18.11.03 .....Venezuela-Bolivia 2-1
19.11.03 .....Brazil-Uruguay 3-3
19.11.03 .....Colombia-Argentina 1-1
19.11.03 .....Ecuador-Peru 0-0
30.03.04 .....Argentina-Ecuador 1-0
30.03.04 .....Bolivia-Chile 0-2
31.03.04 .....Paraguay-Brazil 0-0
31.03.04 .....Peru-Colombia 0-2
31.03.04 .....Uruguay-Venezuela 0-3
01.06.04 .....Bolivia-Paraguay 2-1
01.06.04 .....Uruguay-Peru 1-3
01.06.04 .....Venezuela-Chile 0-1
02.06.04 .....Brazil-Argentina 3-1
02.06.04 .....Ecuador-Colombia 2-1
05.06.04 .....Ecuador-Bolivia 3-2
06.06.04 .....Argentina-Paraguay 0-0
06.06.04 .....Chile-Brazil 1-1
06.06.04 .....Colombia-Uruguay 5-0
06.06.04 .....Peru-Venezuela 0-0
04.09.04 .....Peru-Argentina
05.09.04 .....Brazil-Bolivia
05.09.04 .....Chile-Colombia
05.09.04 .....Paraguay-Venezuela
05.09.04 .....Uruguay-Ecuador
09/10.10.04 ....Argentina-Uruguay
09/10.10.04 ....Bolivia-Peru
09/10.10.04 ....Colombia-Paraguay
09/10.10.04 ....Ecuador-Chile
09/10.10.04 ....Venezuela-Brazil
12/13.10.04 ....Bolivia-Uruguay
12/13.10.04 ....Brazil-Colombia
12/13.10.04 ....Chile-Argentina
12/13.10.04 ....Paraguay-Peru
12/13.10.04 ....Venezuela-Ecuador
16/17.11.04 ....Argentina-Venezuela
16/17.11.04 ....Colombia-Bolivia
16/17.11.04 ....Ecuador-Brazil
16/17.11.04 ....Peru-Chile
16/17.11.04 ....Uruguay-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 ....Bolivia-Argentina
26/27.03.05 ....Brazil-Peru
26/27.03.05 ....Chile-Uruguay
26/27.03.05 ....Ecuador-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 ....Venezuela-Colombia
29/30.03.05 ....Argentina-Colombia
29/30.03.05 ....Bolivia-Venezuela
29/30.03.05 ....Paraguay-Chile
29/30.03.05 ....Peru-Ecuador
29/30.03.05 ....Uruguay-Brazil
04/05.06.05 ....Brazil-Paraguay
04/05.06.05 ....Chile-Bolivia
04/05.06.05 ....Colombia-Peru
04/05.06.05 ....Ecuador-Argentina
04/05.06.05 ....Venezuela-Uruguay
07/08.06.05 ....Argentina-Brazil
07/08.06.05 ....Chile-Venezuela
07/08.06.05 ....Colombia-Ecuador
07/08.06.05 ....Paraguay-Bolivia
07/08.06.05 ....Peru-Uruguay
03/04.09.05 ....Bolivia-Ecuador
03/04.09.05 ....Brazil-Chile
03/04.09.05 ....Paraguay-Argentina
03/04.09.05 ....Uruguay-Colombia
03/04.09.05 ....Venezuela-Peru
08/09.10.05 ....Argentina-Peru
08/09.10.05 ....Bolivia-Brazil
08/09.10.05 ....Colombia-Chile
08/09.10.05 ....Ecuador-Uruguay
08/09.10.05 ....Venezuela-Paraguay
11/12.10.05 ....Brazil-Venezuela
11/12.10.05 ....Chile-Ecuador
11/12.10.05 ....Paraguay-Colombia
11/12.10.05 ....Peru-Bolivia
11/12.10.05 ....Uruguay-Argentina

Top four qualify for finals; fifth-placed side enter a play-off against Oceania section winners for a place in finals

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st qual rnd, 1st legs

July 13

Pobeda (Mac) 1 (Gesoski 80)
Pyunik Yerevan (Arm) 3 (Manucharyan 15, 41, Hovhannisyan 26)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Sent off: Aleksanyan (Pyunik) 42min

Siroki Brijeg (Bos) 2 (Tabi 67, Juricic 75)
Neftchi (Aze) 1 (Tagizade 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ryszka (Pol)

Sliema Wanderers (Mlt) 0
FBK Kaunas (Lit) 2 (Zutautas 55, Sanajevas 77)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** McCourt (NI)

July 14

Flora Tallinn (Est) 2 (Zahhovaiko 81, Post 90)
Gorica (Sln) 4 (Srebrnic 30, Krsic 73, Rodic 75, Panic 90)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)

FC Gomel (Bls) 0
SK Tirana (Alb) 2 (Mukaj 75, Fortuzi 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sandmoen (Nor)

KR Reykjavik (Ice) 2 (Sigurgeirsson 47, Olafsson 54)
Shelbourne (Ire) 2 (Moore 83, Sigurdsson og 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vervecken (Blg)

Linfield (NI) 0
HJK Helsinki (Fin) 1 (Kottila 76)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)

Serif Tiraspol (Mol) 2 (Priganiuc 32, Kuznetsov 67)
Jeunesse d'Esch (Lux) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Megyebiro (Hun)

Skonto Riga (Lat) 4 (Miholaps 10, 56, Dedura 65, Visnakovs 78)
Rhyl (Wal) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Haverkort (Hol)

WIT Georgia (Geo) 5 (Gochashvili 20, Martsvaladze 32, Digmelashvili 43, Intskirveli 47, Ebanoidze 57)
HB Torshavn (Far) 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Theodotou (Cyp)

1st qual rnd, 2nd legs

July 21

FBK Kaunas 4 (Gedgaudas 28, Sanajevas 43, Mikoliunas 53, Zaliukas 90)
Sliema Wanderers 1 (Mifsud 71)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Matejek (Cze)
FBK Kaunas 6-1 on agg

Gorica 3 (Kokot pen 17, Sturm 50, 52)
Flora Tallinn 1 (Zahhovaiko 68)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Zografos (Gre)
Gorica 7-3 on agg

HB Torshavn 3 (Thorsteinsson 66, Jespersen 69, Eliasen 88)
WIT Georgia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stokes (Ire)
Sent off: Martsvaladze (WIT Georgia) 45min
WIT Georgia 5-3 on agg

HJK Helsinki 1 (Kottila 27)
Linfield 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Berezka (Ukr)
HJK 2-0 on agg

Jeunesse d'Esch 1 (Cardoni 61)
Serif Tiraspol 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kovacic (Cro)
Serif 2-1 on agg

Neftchi 1 (Guliev 80)
Siroki Brijeg 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Havrilla (Slk)
Agg 2-2. Neftchi on away goals

Pyunik Yerevan 1 (Petrosyan 77)
Pobeda 1 (Dimitrovski 21)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Wildhaber (Swi)
Sent off: Manevski (Pobeda) 88min
Pyunik 4-2 on agg

Rhyl 1 (Powell 50)
Skonto Riga 3 (Dedura 45, Miholaps 80, 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sowa (Aut)
Skonto 7-1 on agg

Shelbourne 0
KR Reykjavik 0
Ref: Svendsen (Den)
Agg 2-2. Shelbourne on away goals

SK Tirana 0
FC Gomel 1 (Blizniuk 38)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Serea (Rom)
SK Tirana 2-1 on agg

2nd qual rnd, 1st legs

July 27

Gorica 1 (Rodic 57)
FC Copenhagen (Den) 2 (Santos 44, Moller 77)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Malcolm (NI)

HJK Helsinki 0
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 0
Ref: Tiumin (Rus)

Neftchi 0
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0
Ref: Kenan (Isr)

Pyunik Yerevan 1 (Nazaryan 49)
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 3 (Marica 30, 74, Aghahowa 86)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Douros (Gre)

SK Tirana 2 (Mukaj 58, 68)
Ferencvaros (Hun) 3 (Huszti pen 41, 90, Hajdari og 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Demirlek (Tur)

WIT Georgia 2 (Kobiashvili 13, Adamia 51)
Wisla Krakow (Pol) 8 (Frankowski 4, 5, 26, 51, Gorawski 24, Zurawski 58, 67, Kuzba 76)
HT: 1-4. **Ref:** Staberg (Nor)

July 28

APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 2 (Alexandrou 6, Charalambidis 47)
Sparta Prague (Cze) 2 (Pacanda 82, Sivok 89)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)

Club Brugge (Blg) 2 (Balaban 71, 88)
Lokomotiv Plovdiv (Bul) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pereira Gomes (Por)

Djurgardens (Swe) 0
FBK Kaunas 0
Ref: Balaj (Rom)

Hajduk Split (Cro) 3 (Blatnjak 18, 85, Suto 48)
Shelbourne 2 (Fitzpatrick 5, Moore 89)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)

MSK Zilina (Slk) 0
Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 1 (Danciulescu 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Dereli (Tur)

Rosenborg (Nor) 2 (F Johnsen 24, George 85)
Serif Tiraspol 1 (Cocis 34)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Sipailo (Lat)

Skonto Riga 1 (Kalnins 67)
Trabzonspor (Tur) 1 (Mehmet 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kircher (Ger)

Young Boys (Swi) 2 (Chapuisat 6, Eugster 65)
Red Star Belgrade (Ser) 2 (Zigic 79, 88)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vink (Hol)
Sent off: Stancic (Red Star) 58min

2nd qual rnd, 2nd legs

August 4

CSKA Moscow 2 (Gusev 68, Vagner Love 72)
Neftchi 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stalhammar (Swe)
CSKA 2-0 on agg

FC Copenhagen 0
Gorica 5 (Rodic 28, 52, Sturm 39, 77, Srebrnic 45)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Lehner (Aut)
Gorica 6-2 on agg

Dinamo Bucharest 1 (Danciulescu 19)
MSK Zilina 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kelly (Ire)
Sent off: Munteanu (Dinamo) 40min
Dinamo 2-0 on agg

FBK Kaunas 0
Djurgardens 2 (Johansson 25, Barsom 68)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tanovic (Ser)
Djurgardens 2-0 on agg

Ferencvaros 0
SK Tirana 1 (Mukaj 13)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Richmond (Sco)
Agg 3-3. Ferencvaros on away goals

Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0
Club Brugge 4 (Balaban 14, 44, Saeternes 74, Ceh 84)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Trefoloni (Ita)
Sent off: Tunchev (Lokomotiv) 82min
Brugge 6-0 on agg

Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 (L Cohen 88)
HJK Helsinki 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
Maccabi Tel Aviv 1-0 on agg

Red Star Belgrade 3 (Miladinovic 39, Dudic 49, Zigic 69)
Young Boys 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ledentu (Fra)
Red Star 5-2 on agg

Serif Tiraspol 0
Rosenborg 2 (Berg 36, Brattbakk 40)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Rogalla (Swi)
Sent off: Gumenuk (Serif) 85min
Rosenborg 4-1 on agg

Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Hubschman 31)
Pyunik Yerevan 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Asumaa (Fin)
Shakhtar 4-1 on agg

Shelbourne 2 (Rogers 78, Moore 90)
Hajduk Split 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sukhina (Rus)
Shelbourne 4-3 on agg

Sparta Prague 2 (Poborsky 31, Pacanda 55)
APOEL 1 (Charalambidis 52)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Dean (Eng)
Sparta 4-3 on agg

Trabzonspor 3 (Ibrahima 57, Mehmet 65, Fatih 83)
Skonto Riga 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gumienny (Blg)
Trabzonspor 4-1 on agg

Wisla Krakow 3 (Kuzba 23, Omeonu 35, Gorawski 63)
WIT Georgia 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Panic (Bos)
Wisla 11-2 on agg

3rd qual rnd, 1st legs

August 10

Benfica (Por) 1 (Zahovic 13)
Anderlecht (Blg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)

CSKA Moscow 2 (Vagner Love 4, Jarosik 46)
Rangers (Sco) 1 (Novo 37)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)

Grazer AK (Aut) 0
Liverpool (Eng) 2 (Gerrard 22, 78)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)

Juventus (Ita) 2 (Trezeguet 50, Emerson 59)
Djurgardens 2 (Johansson pen 45, Hysen 49)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)

Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 1 (Verpakovskis 21)
Trabzonspor 2 (Gokdeniz 34, Ibrahima 65)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)

***PAOK Salonika (Gre) 1** (Yiasoumi 50)
***Maccabi Tel Aviv 2** (Addo 12, Mesika 42)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
**Game subsequently awarded 3-0 to Maccabi because PAOK fielded ineligible player*

August 11

Basle (Swi) 1 (Huggel 25)
Internazionale (Ita) 1 (Adriano 19)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 5 (Franca 11, 67, 88, Juan 74, Berbatov 82)
Banik Ostrava (Cze) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)

Dinamo Bucharest 1 (Fortune og 9)
Manchester United (Eng) 2 (Giggs 37, Alistar og 70)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Gomes Costa (Por)

Ferencvaros 1 (Vagner 26)
Sparta Prague 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)

Gorica 0
Monaco (Fra) 3 (Kallon 9, 89, Chevanton 77)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Sent off: Evra (Monaco) 53min

Red Star Belgrade 3 (M Dudic 20, Jankovic 39, Pantelic 59)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 2 (Park 8, De Jong 65)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)

Rosenborg 2 (Brattbakk 1, Solli 8)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 1 (Rosso 45)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)

Shakhtar Donetsk 4 (Aghahowa 15, Marica 70, Vorobei 77, Brandao 90)
Club Brugge 1 (Balaban 50)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)

Shelbourne 0
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 0
Ref: Benes (Cze)

Wisla Krakow 0
Real Madrid (Spa) 2 (Morientes 72, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)

2nd legs, Aug 24/25
Winners qualify for group stage

Group stage – direct qualifiers

Ajax (Hol), Arsenal (Eng), Barcelona (Spa), Bayern Munich (Ger), Celtic (Sco), Chelsea (Eng), Fenerbahce (Tur), Lyon (Fra), Milan (Ita), Olympiakos (Gre), Panathinaikos (Gre), Paris Saint-Germain (Fra), FC Porto (Por), Roma (Ita), Valencia (Spa), Werder Bremen (Ger)

UEFA CUP

1st qual rnd

1st legs, July 13/15; 2nd legs, July 27/29

B36 (Far) v Metarlurgs Liepaja (Lat) 1-3, 1-8 (agg 2-11)
B68 (Far) v Ventspils (Lat) 0-3, 0-8 (agg 0-11)
Banska Bystrica (Slk) v Garabagh (Aze) 3-0, 1-0 (agg 4-0)
BATE Borisov (Bls) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) 2-3, 0-1 (agg 2-4)
Ekranas (Lit) v F91 Dudelange (Lux) 1-0, 2-1 (agg 3-1)
Glentoran (NI) v Allianssi (Fin) 2-2, 2-1 (agg 4-3)
FC Haka (Fin) v Etzella Ettelbruck (Lux) 2-1, 3-1 (agg 5-2)
Haverfordwest (Wal) v FH (Ice) 0-1, 1-3 (agg 1-4)
IA Akranes (Ice) v Tallinna VMK (Est) 4-2, 2-1 (agg 6-3)
Illichivets (Ukr) v Banants (Arm) 2-0, 2-0 (agg 4-0)
Levadia Tallinn (Est) v Bohemians (Ire) 0-0, 3-1 (agg 3-1)
Marsaxlokk (Mlt) v Primorje (Sln) 0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)
MIKA Ashtarak (Arm) v Honved (Hun) 0-1, 1-1 (agg 1-2)
Nistru Otaci (Mol) v Shakhtyor (Bls) 1-1, 2-1 (agg 3-2)
Omonia (Cyp) v Sloga Jugomagnat (Mac) 4-0, 4-1 (agg 8-1)
Osters (Swe) v Total Network Solutions (Wal) 2-0, 2-1 (agg 4-1)
Otelul (Rom) v Dinamo Tirana (Alb) 4-0, 4-1 (agg 8-1)
Partizani (Alb) v Birkirkara (Mlt) 4-2, 1-2 (agg 5-4)
Pennarossa (SaM) v Zeljeznicar (Bos) 1-5, 0-4 (agg 1-9)
Portadown (NI) v Zalgiris (Lit) 2-2, 0-2 (agg 2-4)
Santa Coloma (And) v Modrica (Bos) 0-1, 0-3 (agg 0-4)
Shirak Gyumri (Arm) v FC Tiraspol (Mol) 1-2, 0-2 (agg 1-4)
Sileks (Mac) v Maribor (Sln) 0-1, 1-1 (agg 1-2)
FC Tbilisi (Geo) v Shamkir (Aze) 1-0, 4-1 (agg 5-1)
Vaduz (Lie) v Longford (Ire) 1-0, 3-2 (agg 4-2)

2nd qual rnd

1st legs, Aug 10/12

AEK Larnaca (Cyp) v Maccabi Petach Tikva (Isr) 3-0
Arnica Wronki (Pol) v Honved 1-0
Artmedia Bratislava (Slk) v Dnipro (Ukr) 0-3
Banska Bystrica v Wil 1900 (Swi) 3-1
Beveren (Blg) v Vaduz 3-1
Bodo/Glimt (Nor) v Levadia Tallinn 2-1
Buducnost (Ser) v Maribor 1-2
Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) v Primorje 4-0
FH v Dunfermline (Sco) 2-2
Genclerbirligi (Tur) v Rijeka (Cro) 1-0
Glentoran v Elfsborg (Swe) 0-1
Hammarby (Swe) v IA Akranes 2-0
Hapoel Bnei Sakhnin (Isr) v Partizani Tirana 3-0
Illichivets v Austria Wien (Aut) 0-0
Levski Sofia (Bul) v Modrica 5-0
Metalurh Donetsk (Ukr) v FC Tiraspol 3-0
Nistru Otaci v Sigma Olomouc (Cze) 1-2
Odd Grenland (Nor) v Ekranas 3-1
Omonia v CSKA Sofia (Bul) 1-1
Osters v Metalurgs Liepaja 2-2
Otelul v Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 0-0
Pasching (Aut) v Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 3-1
Rapid Wien (Aut) v Rubin Kazan (Rus) 0-2
Slavia Prague (Cze) v Dinamo Tbilisi 3-1
Stabaek (Nor) v FC Haka 3-1
FC Tbilisi v Legia Warsaw (Pol) 0-1
Terek Grozny (Rus) v Lech Poznan (Pol) 1-0
Ujpest (Hun) v Servette (Swi) 3-1
Ventspils v Brondby (Den) 0-0
Zalgiris v AaB Aalborg (Den) 1-3
Zeleznik (Ser) v Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2-4
Zeljeznicar v Litex Lovech (Bul) 1-2

2nd legs, Aug 26

INTERTOTO CUP

2nd rnd

1st legs, July 3/4; 2nd legs, July 10/11

Dinamo Minsk (Bls) v Sartid (Ser) 1-2, 3-1 (agg 4-3)
Dubnica (Slk) v Slovan Liberec (Cze) 1-2, 0-5 (agg 1-7)
Esbjerg (Den) v Nice (Fra) 1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Genk (Blg) v Marek (Bul) 2-1, 0-0 (agg 2-1)
Hibernian (Sco) v Vetra (Lit) 1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Moscow Spartak (Rus) v Kamen Ingrad (Cro) 4-1, 1-0 (agg 5-1)
NEC (Hol) v Cork (Ire) 0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
OB (Den) v Villarreal (Spa) 0-3, 0-2 (agg 0-5)
OFK Belgrade (Ser) v Dinaburg (Lat) 3-1, 2-0 (agg 5-1)
Slaven (Cro) v Vilaznia (Alb) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Spartak Trnava (Slk) v Sloboda (Bos) 2-1, 1-0 (agg 3-1)
Tampere (Fin) v Hazar Univ (Aze) 3-0, 0-1 (agg 3-1)
Teplice (Cze) v Shinnik (Rus) 1-2, 0-2 (agg 1-4)
Vardar (Mac) v Gent (Blg) 1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1; Vardar 4-3 on pens)
Westerlo (Blg) v Zlin (Cze) 0-0, 0-3 (agg 0-3)
Wolfsburg (Ger) v Thun (Swi) 2-3, 1-4 (agg 3-7)

3rd rnd

1st legs, July 17/18; 2nd legs, July 24

Genk v Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 0-1, 2-1 (agg 2-2; Genk on away goals)
Lille (Fra) v Dinamo Minsk 2-1, 2-2 (agg 4-3)
Nantes (Fra) v Cork 3-1, 1-1 (agg 4-2)
Schalke (Ger) v Vardar 5-0, 2-1 (agg 7-1)
Shinnik v Uniao Leiria (Por) 1-4, 1-2 (agg 2-6)
Slaven v Spartak Trnava 0-0, 2-2 (agg 2-2; Slaven on away goals)
Slovan Liberec v Roda JC (Hol) 1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Tampere v OFK 0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
Thun v Hamburg (Ger) 2-2, 1-3 (agg 3-5)
Vetra v Esbjerg 1-1, 0-4 (agg 1-5)
Villarreal v Moscow Spartak 1-0, 2-2 (agg 3-2)
Zlin v Atletico Madrid (Spa) 2-4, 2-0 (agg 4-4; Atletico on away goals)

Semi-finals

1st legs, July 28; 2nd legs, Aug 3/4

Esbjerg v Schalke 1-3, 0-3 (agg 1-6)
Genk v Uniao Leiria 0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2)
Lille v Slaven 3-0, 1-1 (agg 4-1)
OFK Belgrade v Atletico Madrid 1-3, 0-2 (agg 1-5)
Slovan Liberec v Nantes 1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2; Liberec on away goals)
Villarreal v Hamburg 1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)

Finals

1st legs, Aug 10

Lille v Uniao Leiria 0-0
Schalke v Slovan Liberec 2-1
Villarreal v Atletico Madrid 2-0

2nd legs, Aug 24
Winners enter UEFA Cup

AUSTRIA

July 13: Wacker Tirol 1 Grazer AK 0.
July 14: Austria Wien 2 Admira 1; Bregenz 1 Rapid Wien 5; Salzburg 1 Pasching 1; Sturm Graz 3 Mattersburg 1.
July 20: Pasching 3 Sturm Graz 0.
July 21: Admira 3 Bregenz 0; Grazer AK 1 Salzburg 0; Mattersburg 0 Austria Wien 0; Rapid Wien 4 Wacker Tirol 1.
July 31: Bregenz 1 Grazer AK 3; Salzburg 0 Wacker Tirol 0; Mattersburg 3 Pasching 0; Sturm Graz 1 Admira 0.
Aug 1: Austria Wien 1 Rapid Wien 1.
Aug 6: Grazer AK 1 Sturm Graz 0.
Aug 7: Admira 3 Mattersburg 1; Rapid Wien 0 Salzburg 0; Pasching 2 Austria Wien 1.
Aug 8: Wacker Tirol 1 Bregenz 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grazer AK	4	3	0	1	5	2	9
Rapid Wien	4	2	2	0	10	3	8
Pasching	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Admira	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Sturm Graz	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Austria Wien	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Wacker Tirol	4	1	2	1	3	5	5
Mattersburg	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Salzburg	4	0	3	1	1	2	3
Bregenz	4	0	1	3	3	12	1

BELGIUM

Friday, August 6

Mouscron 2 (Dimbala 43, Zewlakow 62)
Anderlecht 0 Att: 9,000

Saturday, August 7

Beveren 1 (Sanogo 2)
Club Brugge 1 (Balaban 6) Att: 7,000

FC Brussels 0
Genk 1 (Beslija 90) Att: 6,000

Cercle Brugge 2 (Masureel 28, Dekelver 83)
Lokeren 2 (De Beule 38, Gretarsson 75) Att: 4,450

Gent 0
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Cadu 52) Att: 7,850

Lierse 1 (De Wilde 67)
Standard 1 (Tchite 23) Att: 8,000

St Truiden 0
Mons 0 Att: 6,000

Sunday, August 8

Charleroi 2 (Dos Santos Costa 44, Brogno pen 48)
La Louviere 5 (Van Handenhoven 34, Ishiaku pen 37, Espartero 45, Odemwingie 77, De Oliveira 81) Att: 10,016

Ostende 3 (Portier 53, Juninho 56, Santalab 65)
Westerlo 3 (Dosunmu 32, 45, 61) Att: 3,050

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Louviere	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Mouscron	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Genk	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Germinal B	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Ostende	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Westerlo	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Cercle Brugge	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Lokeren	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Beveren	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Club Brugge	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lierse	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Standard	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
St Truiden	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mons	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
FC Brussels	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Gent	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Anderlecht	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Charleroi	1	0	0	1	2	5	0

BULGARIA

Aug 6: Rodopa 0 CSKA 1; Levski 3 Slavia 0.
Aug 7: Vidima-Rakovski 2 Cherno More 1; Marek 1 Beroe 0; Pirin 0 Naftex 1; Belasitsa 4 Spartak Varna 0; Lovech 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 0.
Aug 8: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Nesebar 1.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belasitsa	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Lok Plovdiv	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Levski	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Lovech	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Vidima-Rakovski	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
CSKA	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Marek	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Naftex	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Cherno More	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Rodopa	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Beroe	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Pirin	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lok Sofia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Nesebar	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Slavia	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Spartak Varna	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

CROATIA

July 21: Slaven 1 Osijek 2.
July 23: Hajduk 1 Pula 1.
July 24: Zagreb 0 Inter 1; Medimurje 1 Rijeka 2; Kamen Ingrad 3 Varteks 2.
July 25: Zadar 3 Dinamo 4.
July 31: Pula 3 Dinamo 3; Osijek 3 Zadar 1; Rijeka 2 Kamen Ingrad 1; Inter 3 Medimurje 0; Hajduk 2 Zagreb 4.
Aug 1: Varteks 6 Slaven 0.
Aug 7: Zagreb 2 Pula 0; Kamen Ingrad 0 Inter 1; Slaven 0 Rijeka 0; Dinamo 0 Osijek 0; Zadar 3 Varteks 1.
Aug 8: Medimurje 1 Hajduk 3.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
Osijek	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Rijeka	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Zagreb	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Dinamo	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Hajduk	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Varteks	3	1	0	2	9	6	3
Zadar	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
Kamen Ingrad	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Pula	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Slaven	3	0	1	2	1	8	1
Medimurje	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

CZECH REPUBLIC

Aug 7: Zlin 1 Slavia 0; Olomouc 2 Ceske Budejovice 1; Ostrava 1 Teplice 2; Sparta 1 Slovacko 1; Brno 1 Drnovice 0.
Aug 8: Pribram 2 Opava 1.
Aug 9: Mlada Boleslav 1 Jablonec 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pribram	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Olomouc	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Teplice	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Zlin	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Mlada Boleslav	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brno	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sparta	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Liberec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chmel Blsany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opava	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Ceske Budejovice	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Ostrava	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Slavia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Jablonec	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Drnovice	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Slovacko*	1	0	1	0	1	1	-11

**12pts deducted for the club's part in a bribery scandal*

DENMARK

July 24: Silkeborg 2 FC Copenhagen 2.
July 25: AaB 1 Midtjylland 2; Nordsjaelland 2 AGF 2; Herfolge 0 Viborg 0; Brondby 1 OB 2.
July 31: Midtjylland 2 OB 1.
Aug 1: Brondby 2 Viborg 0; Silkeborg 3 AGF 1; AaB 2 Nordsjaelland 0; Randers 0 Herfolge 1; FC Copenhagen 2 Esbjerg 2.
Aug 7: Viborg 3 FC Copenhagen 2.
Aug 8: OB 5 Randers 1; Herfolge 2 AaB 1; Nordsjaelland 2 Silkeborg 3; Esbjerg 3 Midtjylland 0; AGF 0 Brondby 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Silkeborg	3	2	1	0	8	5	7
Herfolge	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
OB	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Midtjylland	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
Esbjerg	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Brondby	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Viborg	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
AaB	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
FC Copenhagen	3	0	2	1	6	7	2
AGF	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Nordsjaelland	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
Randers	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

ENGLAND

COMMUNITY SHIELD

Aug 8 - Millennium stadium, Cardiff
Arsenal 3 (Gilberto Silva 49, Reyes 59, Silvestre og 79)
Manchester Utd 1 (Smith 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 63,317. **Ref:** Dean

FRANCE

Friday, August 6

Nice 0
Lyon 1 (Elber 77) Att: 14,096

Saturday, August 7

Bastia 2 (Jau 43, Vairelles 80)
Strasbourg 1 (Pagis 47) Att: 6,714

Caen 1 (Watier 16)
Istres 1 (N'Diaye 4) Att: 16,450

Lille 2 (Brunel 42, Dernis 46)
Auxerre 0 Att: 12,013

Marseille 1 (Batlles 90)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 56,196

Metz 1 (Socrier 85)
Nantes 0 Att: 21,515

Rennes 2 (Sorlin 22, Frei 24)
Paris SG 1 (Pauleta pen 41) Att: 25,150

Saint-Etienne 0
Monaco 1 (Chevanton 2) Att: 32,459

Sochaux 1 (Monsoreau 30)
Ajaccio 0 Att: 13,662

Toulouse 0
Lens 0 Att: 24,847

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lille	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Bastia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Rennes	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Lyon	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Marseille	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Metz	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Monaco	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sochaux	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Caen	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Istres	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Toulouse	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lens	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Strasbourg	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Paris SG	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Nice	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bordeaux	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Nantes	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Saint-Etienne	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ajaccio	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Auxerre	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

July 31 - Stade Pierre-de-Coubertin, Cannes
Lyon 1 (Elber 54)
Paris SG 1 (Fiorese 70)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Veissiere
Lyon 7-6 on pens

GERMANY

Friday, August 6

Werder Bremen 1 (Hadeo Valdez 83)
Schalke 0 Att: 42,109

Saturday, August 7

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Schneider 49, Franca 90)
Hannover 1 (Tarnat 14) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ewerthon 32)
Wolfsburg 2 (Brdaric 43, 64) Att: 71,000

Freiburg 0
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 21,000

Hamburg 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Ballack 22, Deisler 71) Att: 55,500

Hertha 2 (Gilberto 6, Marcelinho 44)
Bochum 2 (Kalla 65, Madsen pen 70) Att: 45,435

Kaiserslautern 1 (Zandi pen 59)
Nurnberg 3 (Banovic pen 12, Vittek 61, L Muller 85) Att: 37,000

Sunday, August 8

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 26,601

Stuttgart 4 (Cacau 20, 30, 78, Meissner 51)
Mainz 2 (Babatz 48, Bodog 75) Att: 44,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stuttgart	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Nurnberg	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Bayern Munich	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
B Leverkusen	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Wolfsburg	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Werder Bremen	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bochum	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Hertha	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Arminia Bielefeld	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Freiburg	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hansa Rostock	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
M'gladbach	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
B Dortmund	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Hannover	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Schalke	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mainz	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Kaiserslautern	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Hamburg	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

LEAGUE CUP – Final

Aug 3 - Bruchwegstadion, Mainz
Bayern Munich 3 (Deisler 27, 44, Ballack 65)
Werder Bremen 2 (Klasnic 68, Ismael pen 74)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 13,200. **Ref:** Frohlich

HUNGARY

Aug 7: Nyiregyhaza 1 Bekescsaba 1; Kaposvar 3 Vasas 2; MTK 3 Matav 0; Videoton 1 Ujpest 2; Diosgyor 1 Papa 3; Honved 1 Debrecen 2; Zalaegerszeg 1 Pecs 0.
Aug 8: Gyor 2 Ferencvaros 4.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Ferencvaros	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Papa	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kaposvar	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Debrecen	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Ujpest	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Zalaegerszeg	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bekescsaba	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Nyiregyhaza	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Vasas	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Honved	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Videoton	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Pecs	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Gyor	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Diosgyor	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Matav	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

NORWAY

July 25: Lillestrom 5 Viking 1; Odd Grenland 3 Bodo/Glimt 5; Rosenborg 3 Fredrikstad 1; Sogndal 1 Stabaek 2; Tromso 0 Ham-Kam 3; Molde 2 Brann 3.
July 26: Valerenga 1 Lyn 2.
Aug 1: Bodo/Glimt 3 Sogndal 1; Fredrikstad 2 Molde 1; Lillestrom 2 Tromso 2; Lyn 2 Odd Grenland 2; Viking 1 Rosenborg 1; Stabaek 1 Ham-Kam 1.
Aug 2: Brann 1 Valerenga 1.
Aug 8: Ham-Kam 0 Bodo/Glimt 2; Rosenborg 4 Lillestrom 1; Sogndal 1 Lyn 1; Tromso 2 Stabaek 1; Valerenga 3 Fredrikstad 0; Odd Grenland 0 Brann 2.
Aug 9: Molde 1 Viking 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	17	9	6	2	36	20	33
Tromso	17	10	2	5	30	20	32
Lillestrom	17	7	6	4	36	21	27
Valerenga	17	7	6	4	20	16	27
Brann	17	8	2	7	30	28	26
Ham-Kam	17	7	5	5	24	24	26
Lyn	17	6	6	5	21	18	24
Odd Grenland	17	5	7	5	29	28	22
Bodo/Glimt	17	6	3	8	22	29	21
Molde	17	4	7	6	21	24	19
Stabaek	17	5	4	8	17	25	19
Viking	17	3	9	5	16	23	18
Sogndal	17	3	6	8	26	34	15
Fredrikstad	17	3	3	11	23	41	12

POLAND

July 30: Zaglebie 2 Cracovia 5.
July 31: Odra 1 Amica 2; Wisla P 0 Gornik Z 0; Wisla K 5 Gornik L 1; Katowice 0 Lech 3.
Aug 1: Pogon 1 Legia 2.
Aug 6: Amica 1 Legia 1.
Aug 7: Gornik L 3 Cracovia 1; Odra 1 Zaglebie 2; Wisla K 4 Polonia 0; Groclin 3 Katowice 2; Gornik Z 4 Pogon 0.
Aug 8: Lech 4 Wisla P 2.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Lech	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Gornik Z	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Amica	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Legia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Cracovia	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
Groclin	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Zaglebie	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
Gornik L	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
Wisla P	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Odra	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Katowice	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Polonia	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Pogon	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

ROMANIA

July 30: CFR Cluj 2 Poli AEK 1; Poli Iasi 1 Rapid 2.
July 31: National 2 Brasov 1; Farul 1 Dinamo 0; Sportul 1 Apulum 2.
Aug 1: Bacau 1 Otelul 0; Steaua 2 Gloria 0; Arges 1 U Craiova 1.
Aug 6: Brasov 0 Bacau 0; Apulum 2 Poli Iasi 1.
Aug 7: Poli AEK 1 National 4; Dinamo 2 Sportul 1; Otelul 1 Arges 2; U Craiova 0 Farul 0.
Aug 8: Gloria 2 CFR Cluj 0; Rapid 2 Steaua 1.
Aug 11: National 1 Gloria 0; Bacau 2 Poli AEK 1; CFR Cluj 1 Rapid 1; Sportul 2 U Craiova 0; Farul 3 Arges 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Farul	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Rapid	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Bacau	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Apulum	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
CFR Cluj	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Arges	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Steaua	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Sportul	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Dinamo	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Gloria	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
U Craiova	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Brasov	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Poli Iasi	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Otelul	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Poli AEK	3	0	0	3	3	8	0

RUSSIA

July 7: Spartak 1 Kuban 1; Amkar 1 FC Moscow 0; Kryliya Sovetov 2 Rostov 1; Rubin 2 CSKA 1; Shinnik 2 Rotor 1; Dinamo 2 Lokomotiv 4; Torpedo 1 Saturn 2; Zenit 3 Alaniya 2.
July 10: Lokomotiv 1 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Rostov 2 Dinamo 0; Kuban 1 Zenit 3.
July 11: CSKA 3 Amkar 0; Rotor 0 Torpedo 1; FC Moscow 1 Rubin 0.
July 14: Saturn 0 Shinnik 0.
July 17: Torpedo 0 CSKA 1; Dinamo 1 Alaniya 0; Kryliya Sovetov 2 Kuban 1; Zenit 0 Lokomotiv 2.
July 18: Amkar 1 Saturn 1; Rubin 1 Rotor 1.
July 21: Alaniya 0 Spartak 2; FC Moscow 3 Shinnik 2.
July 23: CSKA 1 Rubin 0.
July 24: Rostov 0 Kryliya Sovetov 1; Lokomotiv 2 Dinamo 1.
July 25: Saturn 1 Torpedo 1; FC Moscow 3 Amkar 1; Alaniya 0 Zenit 3.
July 28: Spartak 1 Rostov 0.
Aug 4: Kuban 1 Spartak 2.
Aug 7: Lokomotiv 0 Spartak 0; Shinnik 1 FC Moscow 1.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	18	11	3	4	35	23	36
Torpedo	18	10	5	3	32	16	35
Lokomotiv	18	10	5	3	25	12	35
CSKA	18	9	7	2	29	15	34
Kryliya Sovetov	18	10	4	4	30	26	34
Spartak	18	7	4	7	27	27	25
FC Moscow	18	6	6	6	23	22	24
Saturn	18	4	11	3	20	16	23
Rubin	18	4	8	6	18	18	20
Amkar	18	4	8	6	14	24	20
Dinamo	18	4	7	7	18	21	19
Shinnik	17	4	7	6	12	17	19
Rostov	18	5	4	9	19	26	19
Alaniya	18	5	4	9	16	25	19
Kuban	18	2	7	9	16	27	13
Rotor	17	1	4	12	16	35	7

SCOTLAND

Saturday, August 7

Aberdeen 0
Rangers 0 Att: 19,028

Dundee 0
Hearts 1 (Pressley pen 85) Att: 7,770

Dunfermline 1 (Tod 48)
Dundee Utd 1 (McIntyre 75) Att: 6,512

Hibernian 0
Kilmarnock 1 (Boyd 73) Att: 10,933

Livingston 3 (O'Brien 44, Easton 57, Lovell 66)
Inverness 0 Att: 3,310

Sunday, August 8

Celtic 2 (McNamara 8, Sutton 55)
Motherwell 0 Att: 57,245

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Livingston	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Celtic	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Hearts	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Kilmarnock	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dunfermline	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dundee Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Aberdeen	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rangers	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dundee	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hibernian	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Motherwell	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Inverness	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Aug 7: Red Star 0 Borac 1; Zemun 5 Buducnost 3; Zeta 2 Radnicki NB 0; Hajduk B 0 Sartid 0; Cukaricki 1 Hajduk K 3.
Aug 8: Sutjeska 1 Partizan 4.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Zemun	1	1	0	0	5	3	3
Hajduk K	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Zeta	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Borac	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Hajduk B	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sartid	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
OFK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zeleznik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vojvodina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Obilic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Star	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Buducnost	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
Cukaricki	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Radnicki NB	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sutjeska	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

SWEDEN

July 7: AIK 1 Kalmar 1; Malmo 0 Sundsvall 0; Halmstads 2 Djurgardens 2; Orgryte 1 Landskrona 1.
July 8: Trelleborgs 0 Elfsborg 1; Orebro 0 IFK Gothenburg 0; Hammarby 2 Helsingborgs 1.
July 11: Elfsborg 1 AIK 0; Halmstads 2 Orgryte 2; IFK Gothenburg 2 Trelleborgs 0.
July 12: Kalmar 1 Landskrona 1; Helsingborgs 0 Orebro 0.
July 14: Djurgardens 0 Malmo 2.
July 15: AIK 3 IFK Gothenburg 1.
July 18: Orebro 3 Sundsvall 3; Landskrona 0 Elfsborg 0.
July 19: Trelleborgs 1 Helsingborgs 6; Hammarby 3 Djurgardens 0; Orgryte 1 Kalmar 1.
July 21: Malmo 2 Halmstads 1.
July 24: Djurgardens 5 Orebro 1.
July 25: Sundsvall 1 Trelleborgs 0; Kalmar 0 Elfsborg 1.
July 26: Helsingborgs 3 AIK 0; IFK Gothenburg 1 Landskrona 1.
July 27: Halmstads 2 Hammarby 1.
July 31: Kalmar 1 Djurgardens 1.
Aug 1: AIK 0 Malmo 2; Orebro 1 Orgryte 0.
Aug 2: Trelleborgs 2 Hammarby 2; Elfsborg 3 Sundsvall 1; Landskrona 0 Halmstads 4.
Aug 3: IFK Gothenburg 2 Helsingborgs 1.
Aug 7: Djurgardens 1 Landskrona 1.
Aug 8: Hammarby 1 Orebro 1; Helsingborgs 4 Elfsborg 0.
Aug 9: Malmo 4 Trelleborgs 2; Halmstads 1 AIK 2; Sundsvall 0 Kalmar 1; IFK Gothenburg 4 Orgryte 0.
Aug 12: Kalmar 1 AIK 1.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo	15	9	5	1	26	8	32
Halmstads	15	9	3	3	34	18	30
Hammarby	15	8	4	3	19	12	28
IFK Gothenburg	15	7	4	4	19	11	25
Kalmar	16	6	7	3	19	14	25
Elfsborg	15	5	4	6	12	20	19
Djurgardens	15	4	6	5	21	23	18
Sundsvall	15	4	6	5	15	17	18
Helsingborgs	15	4	5	6	28	20	17
AIK	16	4	5	7	12	19	17
Orebro	15	4	5	6	18	30	17
Landskrona	15	2	7	6	14	22	13
Orgryte	15	2	7	6	13	22	13
Trelleborgs	15	2	4	9	12	26	10

SWITZERLAND

July 17: Schaffhausen 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1; St Gallen 3 Young Boys 3; Grasshopper 1 Zurich 1; Basle 6 Aarau 0.
July 20: Thun 3 Servette 0.
July 23: Basle 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1; Young Boys 6 Schaffhausen 1; Servette 2 Grasshopper 2.
July 27: Aarau 0 Thun 1; Zurich 3 St Gallen 1.
July 30: Servette 1 Basle 2.
July 31: Schaffhausen 3 St Gallen 2; Zurich 1 Thun 0; Neuchatel Xamax 2 Aarau 1.
Aug 6: Basle 2 Zurich 1.
Aug 7: St Gallen 4 Neuchatel Xamax 2; Thun 3 Young Boys 1; Aarau 4 Servette 0.
Aug 8: Grasshopper 1 Schaffhausen 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	4	3	1	0	11	3	10
Thun	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Zurich	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Grasshopper	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Neuchatel X	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
Young Boys	3	1	1	1	10	7	4
St Gallen	4	1	1	2	10	11	4
Schaffhausen	4	1	1	2	5	10	4
Aarau	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
Servette*	4	0	1	3	3	11	-2

**3pts deducted for licensing irregularities during the 2003-04 season*

TURKEY

Aug 6: Rizespor 2 Fenerbahce 2.
Aug 7: Genclerbirligi 1 Sakaryaspor 0; Denizlispor 2 Gaziantepspor 1; Kayserispor 0 Trabzonspor 3; Malatyaspor 1 Besiktas 1.
Aug 8: Sebatspor 1 Ankaraspor 3; Samsunspor 1 Ankaragucu 1; Istanbulspor 1 Diyarbakirspor 1; Galatasaray 3 Konyaspor 1.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trabzonspor	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Ankaraspor	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Galatasaray	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Denizlispor	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Genclerbirligi	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Rizespor	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Fenerbahce	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Malatyaspor	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Besiktas	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Samsunspor	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ankaragucu	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Istanbulspor	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Diyarbakirspor	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Gaziantepspor	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Sakaryaspor	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sebatspor	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Konyaspor	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Kayserispor	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

UKRAINE

July 15: Metalurh D 2 Obolon 1; Borysfen 1 Metalurh Z 1; Vorskla 3 Arsenal 0; Chornomorets 3 Kryvbas 1; Dnipro 4 Metalist 2; Dynamo 0 Shakhtar 2; Volyn 1 Tavriya 0.
July 20: Zakarpattya 1 Dynamo 2; Tavriya 1 Metalurh Z 1; Obolon 0 Vorskla 1; Metalist 1 Metalurh D 4; Kryvbas 1 Dnipro 2; Shakhtar 1 Chornomorets 0; Volyn 3 Illichivets 2.
July 24: Dnipro 1 Shakhtar 3.
July 25: Dynamo 3 Volyn 0; Illichivets 2 Tavriya 2; Chornomorets 0 Zakarpattya 0; Metalurh D 1 Kryvbas 1; Vorskla 0 Metalist 1; Borysfen 0 Obolon 0; Metalurh Z 0 Arsenal 0.
July 31: Shakhtar 3 Metalurh D 0.
Aug 1: Kryvbas 1 Vorskla 0; Obolon 0 Metalurh Z 0; Metalist 3 Borysfen 1; Tavriya 1 Arsenal 1; Zakarpattya 0 Dnipro 0; Volyn 1 Chornomorets 0.
Aug 2: Illichivets 1 Dynamo 1.
Aug 7: Chornomorets 0 Illichivets 1; Dnipro 1 Volyn 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
Dnipro	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
Volyn	5	3	0	2	5	6	9
Dynamo	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Metalurh D	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Vorskla	4	2	0	2	4	2	6
Metalist	4	2	0	2	7	9	6
Illichivets	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Metalurh Z	4	0	4	0	2	2	4
Chornomorets	5	1	1	3	3	4	4
Kryvbas	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Tavriya	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
Zakarpattya	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Borysfen	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Obolon	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Arsenal	3	0	2	1	1	4	2

SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 24: La Paz 0 The Strongest 2; Santa Cruz 1 Union Central 2; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Oriente 0.
July 25: Blooming 4 Aurora 2; San Jose 3 Real Potosi 0.
July 31: Iberoamericana 0 San Jose 4.
Aug 1: Aurora 2 Santa Cruz 1; Bolivar 2 La Paz 2; Blooming 0 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Real Potosi 2 The Strongest 0; Union Central 1 Oriente 0.
Aug 8: Oriente 4 Aurora 0; San Jose 0 Bolivar 0; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Union Central 0; The Strongest 0 Iberoamericana 0; La Paz 3 Real Potosi 2.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Jose	3	2	1	0	7	0	7
The Strongest	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
La Paz	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Real Potosi	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Bolivar	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Iberoamericana	2	0	1	1	0	4	1

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
J Wilstermann	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
Union Central	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Oriente	3	1	0	2	4	2	3
Blooming	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Aurora	3	1	0	2	4	9	3
Santa Cruz	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

BRAZIL

July 6: Gremio 2 Figueirense 2; Vasco da Gama 3 Vitoria 1; Goias 4 Fluminense 0; Sao Paulo 1 Atletico Mineiro 0.
July 7: Criciuma 1 Flamengo 1; Botafogo 5 Internacional 1; Paysandu 0 Sao Caetano 0; Ponte Preta 0 Santos 4; Cruzeiro 2 Guarani 0; Coritiba 1 Corinthians 2; Palmeiras 4 Juventude 1; Parana 1 Atletico Paranaense 0.
July 10: Figueirense 2 Criciuma 0; Internacional 2 Gremio 0; Flamengo 0 Vasco da Gama 1; Fluminense 1 Sao Caetano 0; Vitoria 1 Botafogo 0; Goias 3 Paysandu 2; Ponte Preta 3 Guarani 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Cruzeiro 0; Santos 2 Sao Paulo 1; Atletico Paranaense 0 Palmeiras 0; Corinthians 1 Parana 0; Juventude 1 Coritiba 0.
July 13: Figueirense 0 Parana 0; Gremio 2 Cruzeiro 3; Vasco da Gama 2 Coritiba 3; Botafogo 1 Palmeiras 1; Paysandu 3 Ponte Preta 0; Sao Caetano 0 Sao Paulo 0; Guarani 2 Internacional 1; Atletico Mineiro 1 Vitoria 1; Santos 2 Flamengo 0; Atletico Paranaense 6 Goias 0; Corinthians 1 Criciuma 0; Juventude 2 Fluminense 1.
July 17: Criciuma 4 Atletico Mineiro 2; Internacional 6 Atletico Paranaense 0; Flamengo 0 Juventude 1; Fluminense 1 Santos 0; Vitoria 1 Corinthians 1; Goias 2 Guarani 0; Ponte Preta 3 Vasco da Gama 2; Cruzeiro 3 Botafogo 2; Sao Paulo 2 Figueirense 1; Coritiba 1 Paysandu 1; Palmeiras 2 Gremio 0; Parana 0 Sao Caetano 1.
July 20: Figueirense 1 Coritiba 1; Gremio 4 Parana 0; Vasco da Gama 3 Cruzeiro 2; Botafogo 1 Sao Paulo 0; Paysandu 1 Palmeiras 0; Sao Caetano 0 Ponte Preta 1; Guarani 0 Flamengo 1; Atletico Mineiro 0 Goias 2; Santos 5 Criciuma 2; Atletico Paranaense 4 Fluminense 1; Corinthians 0 Internacional 0; Juventude 3 Vitoria 2.
July 24: Criciuma 4 Atletico Paranaense 1; Internacional 1 Juventude 2; Flamengo 0 Atletico Mineiro 0; Fluminense 2 Corinthians 0; Vitoria 3 Guarani 2; Goias 3 Santos 3; Ponte Preta 1 Gremio 0; Cruzeiro 0 Sao Caetano 1; Sao Paulo 1 Vasco da Gama 0; Coritiba 1 Botafogo 0; Palmeiras 0 Figueirense 0; Parana 2 Paysandu 0.
July 28: Figueirense 2 Fluminense 1; Gremio 4 Vitoria 0; Botafogo 0 Flamengo 0; Paysandu 2 Criciuma 2; Guarani 1 Palmeiras 0; Atletico Paranaense 4 Ponte Preta 0; Corinthians 1 Cruzeiro 0; Juventude 1 Sao Paulo 2.
July 29: Atletico Mineiro 4 Parana 1; Vasco da Gama 3 Goias 1; Santos 4 Coritiba 2; Sao Caetano 2 Internacional 0.
July 31: Atletico Paranaense 0 Gremio 0; Fluminense 0 Cruzeiro 0.
Aug 1: Criciuma 3 Ponte Preta 1; Internacional 1 Sao Paulo 1; Flamengo 0 Palmeiras 1; Vitoria 2 Coritiba 2; Goias 3 Parana 0; Guarani 0 Botafogo 2; Atletico Mineiro 3 Figueirense 1; Santos 6 Paysandu 0; Corinthians 2 Sao Caetano 0; Juventude 1 Vasco da Gama 1.
Aug 4: Figueirense 1 Guarani 1; Gremio 3 Santos 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Corinthians 3; Paysandu 2 Atletico Mineiro 1; Sao Caetano 0 Atletico Paranaense 3; Ponte Preta 3 Fluminense 2; Coritiba 1 Flamengo 0; Palmeiras 0 Goias 3; Parana 0 Criciuma 3.
Aug 5: Botafogo 0 Juventude 1; Cruzeiro 2 Internacional 0; Sao Paulo 2 Vitoria 1.
Aug 7: Fluminense 3 Parana 1; Goias 1 Coritiba 2; Atletico Mineiro 3 Gremio 0; Santos 0 Sao Caetano 1.
Aug 8: Criciuma 1 Palmeiras 2; Internacional 1 Ponte Preta 2; Flamengo 1 Sao Paulo 0; Vitoria 3 Cruzeiro 2; Guarani 0 Paysandu 0; Atletico Paranaense 2 Vasco da Gama 0; Corinthians 2 Botafogo 2; Juventude 0 Figueirense 0.
Aug 11: Figueirense 0 Corinthians 1; Gremio 1 Guarani 1; Vasco da Gama 2 Santos 3; Paysandu 0 Juventude 1; Ponte Preta 1 Vitoria 0; Cruzeiro 2 Flamengo 0; Sao Paulo 4 Goias 0; Parana 1 Internacional 2.
Aug 12: Botafogo 1 Atletico Paranaense 1; Sao Caetano 1 Atletico Mineiro 1; Coritiba 1 Criciuma 0; Palmeiras 3 Fluminense 2.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	23	13	2	8	51	36	41
Ponte Preta	23	13	2	8	25	31	41
Sao Paulo	23	12	5	6	32	22	41
Palmeiras	23	11	7	5	36	20	40
At Paranaense	23	11	5	7	40	26	38
Juventude	23	11	5	7	28	25	38
Goias	23	10	6	7	42	39	36
Cruzeiro	23	10	4	9	31	31	34
Corinthians	23	9	7	7	26	33	34
Figueirense	23	8	10	5	27	20	34
Sao Caetano	23	9	6	8	24	21	33
Coritiba	23	8	9	6	26	24	33
Criciuma	23	9	5	9	39	36	32
Internacional	23	9	4	10	30	29	31
Fluminense	23	8	7	8	30	32	31
Vitoria	23	8	5	10	39	38	29
At Mineiro	23	6	10	7	32	31	28
Vasco da Gama	23	7	6	10	35	33	27
Gremio	23	6	8	9	33	33	26
Guarani	23	5	7	11	18	29	22
Paysandu	23	5	7	11	26	40	22
Botafogo	23	4	10	9	28	35	22
Parana	23	5	5	13	19	42	20
Flamengo	23	4	8	11	18	28	20

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 31: Cobreloa 1 Santiago Wanderers 1; Palestino 2 Union Espanola 1; Audax Italiano 2 U Catolica 3.
Aug 1: U de Concepcion 0 Dep Temuco 0; Dep La Serena 1 Rangers 1; Cobresal 2 Coquimbo Unido 1; San Felipe 1 Huachipato 0; Everton 1 Puerto Montt 1; U de Chile 0 Colo Colo 1.
Aug 7: Rangers 0 U de Chile 1; Puerto Montt 1 Palestino 0; San Felipe 1 Everton 1; U Catolica 2 Cobreloa 1; Huachipato 2 Dep Temuco 2; Coquimbo Unido 1 Audax Italiano 3.
Aug 8: Santiago Wanderers 0 U de Concepcion 1; Colo Colo 4 Cobresal 0; Union Espanola 1 Dep La Serena 1.
Aug 10: U de Concepcion 4 U Catolica 1.

CHILE – CLOSING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Audax Italiano	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Dep La Serena	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Cobreloa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Union Espanola	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puerto Montt	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
San Felipe	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sant Wanderers	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Coquimbo Unido	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Palestino	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
U de Chile	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Dep Temuco	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Rangers	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Concepcion	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
U Catolica	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Cobresal	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Everton	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Huachipato	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 1: At Junior 4 Chico 0; Quindio 0 America 2; Indep Santa Fe 3 Dep Pasto 1; At Huila 1 At Nacional 0; Once Caldas 1 Pereira 2; Tulua 1 Millonarios 0; Bucaramanga 2 Magdalena 1; Dep Cali 1 Envigado 0; Indep Medellin 0 Tolima 1.
Aug 6: America 3 Dep Cali 0.
Aug 7: Envigado 0 Bucaramanga 1; Millonarios 1 Indep Medellin 1.
Aug 8: Magdalena 1 Tulua 0; Tolima 1 Once Caldas 0; Pereira 0 At Huila 0; At Nacional 0 Indep Santa Fe 1; Dep Pasto 1 At Junior 1; Chico 2 Quindio 2.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Indep Santa Fe	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Bucaramanga	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Tolima	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
At Junior	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Pereira	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
At Huila	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Magdalena	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Tulua	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Dep Cali	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Indep Medellin	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Millonarios	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Dep Pasto	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Quindio	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Chico	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Once Caldas	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Envigado	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
At Nacional	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 23: Espoli 0 LDU Quito 2; Dep Cuenca 0 Olmedo 0.
July 24: El Nacional 1 Emelec 1; Macara 1 Dep Quito 1; Barcelona 2 Aucas 1;
July 28: Aucas 0 Macara 0; Dep Quito 3 Dep Cuenca 2; Olmedo 3 Espoli 2; Barcelona 2 Emelec 0; LDU Quito 3 El Nacional 2.
Aug 1: El Nacional 5 Olmedo 2; Dep Cuenca 3 Aucas 1; Espoli 2 Dep Quito 1; Macara 1 Barcelona 1; Emelec 1 LDU Quito 0.
Aug 4: Aucas 1 Espoli 0; Macara 0 El Nacional 1; Olmedo 0 Emelec 0; Dep Quito 2 LDU Quito 1; Barcelona 1 Dep Cuenca 0.
Aug 7: Espoli 0 Barcelona 4.
Aug 8: El Nacional 0 Dep Quito 3; Dep Cuenca 1 Macara 0; LDU Quito 1 Olmedo 3; Emelec 1 Aucas 0.

ECUADOR – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	9	6	2	1	19	9	20
Dep Cuenca	9	5	2	2	15	11	17
Dep Quito	9	4	4	1	18	12	16
El Nacional	9	4	1	4	12	12	13
Emelec	9	2	6	1	9	9	12
Olmedo	9	3	3	3	15	16	12
LDU Quito	9	3	1	5	12	14	10
Macara	9	1	5	3	5	8	8
Aucas	9	1	4	4	7	11	7
Espoli	9	1	2	6	7	17	5

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 7: Sol de America 1 Libertad 2; Tacuary 0 Sport Colombia 0; Cerro Porteno 3 Nacional 0.
Aug 8: Guarani 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0; 12 de Octubre 0 Olimpia 2.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Olimpia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Libertad	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Guarani	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sportivo Luqueno	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sport Colombia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tacuary	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sol de America	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
12 de Octubre	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Nacional	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

July 31: Universidad SMP 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
Aug 1: Sport Boys 1 At Universidad 1; Estudiantes 0 Alianza Lima 2; Cienciano 2 Universidad CV 2; Universitario 1 Alianza Atletico 3; Melgar 1 Deportivo Wanka 0; Union Huaral 0 Sporting Cristal 0.
Aug 7: At Universidad 2 Melgar 0.
Aug 8: Universitario 2 Sporting Cristal 2; Alianza Atletico 1 Universidad CV 0; Coronel Bolognesi 2 Cienciano 4; Union Huaral 1 Estudiantes 1; Dep Wanka 2 Universidad SMP 1; Alianza Lima 1 Sport Boys 0.

PERU – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	24	18	4	2	47	15	58
Cienciano	24	16	3	5	48	26	51
Alianza Atletico	24	14	5	5	42	24	47
Sporting Cristal	24	11	6	7	43	23	39
Universitario	24	10	8	6	28	23	38
Universidad CV	24	9	7	8	23	29	34
Union Huaral	24	8	7	9	28	27	31
Melgar	24	8	6	10	29	37	30
Coronel Bolognesi	24	8	3	13	35	40	27
Estudiantes	24	6	9	9	19	33	27
Dep Wanka	24	6	7	11	23	39	25
At Universidad	24	5	8	11	27	40	23
Sport Boys	24	5	7	12	25	35	22
Universidad SMP	24	2	4	18	20	46	10

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 7: Caracas 3 Carabobo 2.
Aug 8: ItalMaracaibo 2 Estudiantes 0; Dep Tachira 1 UA Maracaibo 0; Monagas 0 Mineros Guayana 2; Trujillanos 1 Ital-Chacao 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ItalMaracaibo	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Mineros Guayana	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Caracas	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Dep Tachira	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Trujillanos	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Carabobo	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Ital-Chacao	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
UA Maracaibo	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Estudiantes	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Monagas	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

July 7: San Jose Earthquakes 1 Dallas Burn 2.
July 10: Dallas Burn 0 Columbus Crew 0; Kansas City Wizards 1 DC United 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Colorado Rapids 0; MetroStars 2 San Jose Earthquakes 0.
July 11: Chicago Fire 1 New England Revolution 1.
July 14: New England Revolution 3 Chicago Fire 1; Colorado Rapids 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
July 17: Columbus Crew 1 New England Revolution 1; DC United 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; Dallas Burn 0 Kansas City Wizards 1; Chicago Fire 1 MetroStars 1; San Jose Earthquakes 3 Colorado Rapids 1.
July 24: MetroStars 2 Chicago Fire 1; Colorado Rapids 0 Columbus Crew 0; Dallas Burn 5 DC United 1; Kansas City Wizards 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 2; San Jose Earthquakes 2 New England Revolution 2.
July 28: Kansas City Wizards 1 MetroStars 2; Colorado Rapids 2 Chicago Fire 0; Columbus Crew 2 Dallas Burn 1.
Aug 7: Dallas Burn 1 Colorado Rapids 0; New England Revolution 2 Columbus Crew 2; San Jose Earthquakes 2 DC United 0.
Aug 8: MetroStars 3 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
Aug 11: DC United 3 Colorado Rapids 1; Dallas Burn 0 New England Revolution 3; Chicago Fire 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1.

USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MetroStars	20	9	5	6	36	34	32
Columbus Crew	18	6	7	5	20	20	25
DC United	20	6	6	8	27	31	24
New England	20	5	7	8	27	30	22
Chicago Fire	20	5	7	8	21	25	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LA Galaxy	21	9	6	6	35	31	33
Kansas City	19	9	5	5	28	18	32
Dallas Burn	20	7	5	8	24	28	26
Colorado Rapids	21	6	8	7	17	21	26
San Jose	19	6	7	6	31	28	24

LEADING GOALSCORERS

10	Brian Ching (San Jose Earthquakes)
10	Amado Guevara (MetroStars)
10	Carlos Ruiz (Los Angeles Galaxy)
9	Damani Ralph (Chicago Fire)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

July 10: Bakili Bullets (Mwi) 0 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 1; Africa Sports (IvC) 0 Enyimba (Nig) 3.
July 25: Etoile Sahel 2 Africa Sports 0; Enyimba 6 Bakili Bullets 0.
Aug 7: Etoile Sahel 1 Enyimba 0.
Aug 8: Bakili Bullets 2 Africa Sports 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Etoile Sahel	3	3	0	0	4	0	9
Enyimba	3	2	0	1	9	1	6
Bakili Bullets	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
Africa Sports	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Group B

July 10: SuperSport United (SAf) 1 Esperance (Tun) 2.
July 11: Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 2 USM Alger (Alg) 1.
July 23: USM Alger 2 SuperSport United 1.
July 24: Esperance 5 Jeanne d'Arc 0.
Aug 6: Esperance 2 USM Alger 1.
Aug 7: SuperSport United 1 Jeanne d'Arc 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Jeanne d'Arc	3	1	1	1	3	7	4
USM Alger	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
SuperSport Utd	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

AFRICAN CONFEDERATION CUP

Intermediate round

(3rd rnd winners plus losers from 3rd rnd of Champions League)

1st legs, July 9-11; 2nd legs, July 24/25
Al Hilal (Sud) v Liberty Pros (Gha) 1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1; Al Hilal 2-0 on pens)
APR FC (Rwa) v Enugu Rangers (Nig) 1-0, 0-3 (agg 1-3)
Asante Kotoko (Gha) v Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1)
Canon Yaounde (Cam) v Santos (SAf) 1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)
Cotonsport (Cam) v Green Buffaloes (Zam) 3-0, 1-1 (agg 4-1)
Hearts of Oak (Gha) v AS Douanes (Sen) 1-0, 0-0 (agg 1-0)
Orlando Pirates (SAf) v Sable Batie (Cam) 4-2*
Petro Atletico (Ang) v Royal Armed Forces (Mor) 0-0, 1-0 (agg 1-0)

**2nd leg still to play*

Group stage

Group A

Aug 8: Asante Kotoko 3 Enugu Rangers 1; Petro Atletico 3 Al Hilal 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Asante Kotoko	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Petro Atletico	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Enugu Rangers	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Al Hilal	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Group B

Aug 7: Hearts of Oak 1 Santos 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts of Oak	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Cotonsport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sable B/Orlando P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santos	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

FRANCE

Fri, August 6, 2004

Nice v Lyon

Sat, August 7

Bastia v Strasbourg
Caen v Istres
Marseille v Bordeaux
Lille v Auxerre
Metz v Nantes
Saint-Etienne v Monaco
Rennes v PSG
Sochaux v Ajaccio
Toulouse v Lens

Sat, August 14

Ajaccio v Metz
Auxerre v Rennes
Bordeaux v Nice
Lens v Saint-Etienne
Lyon v Sochaux
Nantes v Bastia
Monaco v Istres
PSG v Caen
Strasbourg v Toulouse

Sun, August 15

Marseille v Lille

Fri, August 20

Caen v Monaco

Sat, August 21

Bastia v Ajaccio
Istres v Lens
Lille v Bordeaux
Rennes v Nantes
Nice v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Strasbourg
Toulouse v PSG
Sochaux v Auxerre

Sun, August 22

Metz v Lyon

Sat, August 28

Ajaccio v Rennes
Bordeaux v Sochaux
Auxerre v Caen
Lens v Monaco
Marseille v Metz
Lyon v Lille
Nantes v Toulouse
Nice v Bastia
Strasbourg v Istres

Sun, August 29

PSG v Saint-Etienne

Sat, September 11

Bastia v Auxerre
Caen v Lens
Istres v PSG
Lille v Nice
Metz v Bordeaux
Monaco v Strasbourg
Rennes v Lyon
Sochaux v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Nantes
Toulouse v Ajaccio

Sat, September 18

Ajaccio v Saint-Etienne
Bordeaux v Rennes
Auxerre v Metz
Lille v Caen
Lyon v Bastia
Nantes v Istres
Marseille v Toulouse
Nice v Sochaux
PSG v Monaco
Strasbourg v Lens

Wed, September 22

Bastia v Bordeaux
Istres v Ajaccio
Caen v Strasbourg
Lens v PSG
Monaco v Nantes
Metz v Nice
Rennes v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Auxerre
Toulouse v Lyon
Sochaux v Lille

Sat, September 25

Ajaccio v Caen
Auxerre v Istres
Bordeaux v Toulouse
Lyon v Monaco
Nantes v Lens
Lille v Metz
Marseille v Bastia
Nice v Rennes
Sochaux v Saint-Etienne
PSG v Strasbourg

Sat, October 2

Bastia v PSG
Istres v Marseille
Caen v Bordeaux
Lens v Ajaccio
Monaco v Nice
Metz v Sochaux
Rennes v Lille
Saint-Etienne v Lyon
Toulouse v Auxerre
Strasbourg v Nantes

Sat, October 16

Ajaccio v Strasbourg
Bordeaux v Istres
Lyon v Caen
Auxerre v Lens
Lille v Bastia
Marseille v Saint-Etienne
Nantes v PSG
Metz v Monaco
Nice v Toulouse
Sochaux v Rennes

Sat, October 23

Caen v Nantes
Bastia v Sochaux
Istres v Lyon
Monaco v Auxerre
Rennes v Metz
Lens v Marseille
PSG v Ajaccio
Saint-Etienne v Bordeaux
Toulouse v Lille
Strasbourg v Nice

Sat, October 30

Ajaccio v Nantes
Bordeaux v Lens
Lyon v Strasbourg
Auxerre v PSG
Lille v Saint-Etienne
Metz v Bastia
Rennes v Caen
Marseille v Monaco
Nice v Istres
Sochaux v Toulouse

Sat, November 6

Bastia v Rennes
Caen v Sochaux
Istres v Lille
Monaco v Ajaccio
PSG v Marseille
Lens v Lyon
Nantes v Auxerre
Saint-Etienne v Nice
Toulouse v Metz
Strasbourg v Bordeaux

Sat, November 13

Auxerre v Ajaccio
Bordeaux v PSG
Bastia v Saint-Etienne
Lille v Monaco
Marseille v Strasbourg
Lyon v Nantes
Metz v Caen
Nice v Lens
Sochaux v Istres
Rennes v Toulouse

Sat, November 20

Ajaccio v Marseille
Caen v Nice
Istres v Metz
Lens v Lille
Monaco v Sochaux
PSG v Lyon
Nantes v Bordeaux
Saint-Etienne v Rennes
Strasbourg v Auxerre
Toulouse v Bastia

Sat, November 27

Bastia v Caen
Bordeaux v Ajaccio
Lyon v Auxerre
Marseille v Nantes
Lille v Strasbourg
Metz v Saint-Etienne
Rennes v Istres
Nice v PSG
Sochaux v Lens
Toulouse v Monaco

Sat, December 4

Ajaccio v Lyon
Caen v Marseille
Auxerre v Bordeaux
Istres v Bastia
Lens v Metz
Nantes v Nice
Saint-Etienne v Toulouse
Monaco v Rennes
PSG v Lille
Strasbourg v Sochaux

Sat, December 11

Bastia v Monaco
Bordeaux v Lyon
Marseille v Auxerre
Lille v Nantes
Metz v Strasbourg
Nice v Ajaccio
Saint-Etienne v Caen
Toulouse v Istres
Rennes v Lens
Sochaux v PSG

Sat, December 18

Ajaccio v Lille
Caen v Toulouse
Auxerre v Nice
Istres v Saint-Etienne
Lens v Bastia
Monaco v Bordeaux
PSG v Metz
Lyon v Marseille
Nantes v Sochaux
Strasbourg v Rennes

Wed, January 12, 2005

Bastia v Nantes
Caen v PSG
Lille v Marseille
Nice v Bordeaux
Istres v Monaco
Metz v Ajaccio
Rennes v Auxerre
Saint-Etienne v Lens
Sochaux v Lyon
Toulouse v Strasbourg

Sat, January 15

Ajaccio v Bastia
Bordeaux v Lille
Auxerre v Sochaux
Lens v Istres
Marseille v Nice
Nantes v Rennes
Lyon v Metz
Monaco v Caen
PSG v Toulouse
Strasbourg v Saint-Etienne

Sat, January 22

Bastia v Nice
Istres v Strasbourg
Metz v Marseille
Caen v Auxerre
Lille v Lyon
Monaco v Lens
Saint-Etienne v PSG
Rennes v Ajaccio
Sochaux v Bordeaux
Toulouse v Nantes

Wed, January 26

Ajaccio v Toulouse
Bordeaux v Metz
Lyon v Rennes
Auxerre v Bastia
Marseille v Sochaux
Nice v Lille
Nantes v Saint-Etienne
PSG v Istres
Strasbourg v Monaco
Lens v Caen

Sat, January 29

Bastia v Lyon
Caen v Lille
Istres v Nantes
Lens v Strasbourg
Monaco v PSG
Saint-Etienne v Ajaccio
Metz v Auxerre
Rennes v Bordeaux
Sochaux v Nice
Toulouse v Marseille

Sat, February 5

Ajaccio v Istres
Bordeaux v Bastia
Auxerre v Saint-Etienne
Lille v Sochaux
Lyon v Toulouse
Nantes v Monaco
Marseille v Rennes
Nice v Metz
Strasbourg v Caen
PSG v Lens

Sat, February 19

Bastia v Marseille
Istres v Auxerre
Caen v Ajaccio
Lens v Nantes
Metz v Lille
Rennes v Nice
Monaco v Lyon
Saint-Etienne v Sochaux
Strasbourg v PSG
Toulouse v Bordeaux

Sat, February 26

Ajaccio v Lens
Auxerre v Toulouse
Lille v Rennes
Bordeaux v Caen
Marseille v Istres
Lyon v Saint-Etienne
Nantes v Strasbourg
Nice v Monaco
Sochaux v Metz
PSG v Bastia

Sat, March 5

Bastia v Lille
Istres v Bordeaux
Caen v Lyon
Lens v Auxerre
Monaco v Metz
Rennes v Sochaux
Strasbourg v Ajaccio
PSG v Nantes
Saint-Etienne v Marseille
Toulouse v Nice

Sat, March 12

Ajaccio v PSG
Bordeaux v Saint-Etienne
Lyon v Istres
Auxerre v Monaco
Lille v Toulouse
Marseille v Lens
Nantes v Caen
Metz v Rennes
Nice v Strasbourg
Sochaux v Bastia

Sat, March 19

Bastia v Metz
Caen v Rennes
Lens v Bordeaux
Istres v Nice
Monaco v Marseille
Nantes v Ajaccio
Saint-Etienne v Lille
PSG v Auxerre
Strasbourg v Lyon
Toulouse v Sochaux

Sat, April 2

Ajaccio v Monaco
Bordeaux v Strasbourg
Lyon v Lens
Auxerre v Nantes
Lille v Istres
Marseille v PSG
Nice v Saint-Etienne
Metz v Toulouse
Rennes v Bastia
Sochaux v Caen

Sat, April 9

Ajaccio v Auxerre
Caen v Metz
Lens v Nice
Nantes v Lyon
Istres v Sochaux
Monaco v Lille
PSG v Bordeaux
Strasbourg v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Bastia
Toulouse v Rennes

Sat, April 16

Auxerre v Strasbourg
Bordeaux v Nantes
Bastia v Toulouse
Lille v Lens
Marseille v Ajaccio
Lyon v PSG
Metz v Istres
Nice v Caen
Sochaux v Monaco
Rennes v Saint-Etienne

Sat, April 23

Ajaccio v Bordeaux
Auxerre v Lyon
Istres v Rennes
Monaco v Toulouse
Caen v Bastia
Lens v Sochaux
Nantes v Marseille
Saint-Etienne v Metz
PSG v Nice
Strasbourg v Lille

Sat, May 7

Bastia v Istres
Bordeaux v Auxerre
Lyon v Ajaccio
Metz v Lens
Lille v PSG
Marseille v Caen
Nice v Nantes
Rennes v Monaco
Sochaux v Strasbourg
Toulouse v Saint-Etienne

Sat, May 14

Ajaccio v Nice
Auxerre v Marseille
Istres v Toulouse
Caen v Saint-Etienne
Lens v Rennes
Lyon v Bordeaux
Nantes v Lille
Monaco v Bastia
PSG v Sochaux
Strasbourg v Metz

Sat, May 21

Bastia v Lens
Lille v Ajaccio
Bordeaux v Monaco
Marseille v Lyon
Metz v PSG
Rennes v Strasbourg
Nice v Auxerre
Saint-Etienne v Istres
Sochaux v Nantes
Toulouse v Caen

Sat, May 28

Ajaccio v Sochaux
Bordeaux v Marseille
Auxerre v Lille
Istres v Caen
Lyon v Nice
Lens v Toulouse
Monaco v Saint-Etienne
PSG v Rennes
Nantes v Metz
Strasbourg v Bastia

GERMANY

Fri, August 6, 2004

Werder Bremen v Schalke

Sat, August 7

Kaiserslautern v Nurnberg
Freiburg v Hansa Rostock
Dortmund v Wolfsburg
Leverkusen v Hannover
Hertha v Bochum
Hamburg v Bayern Munich

Sun, August 8

Bielefeld v Monchengladbach
Stuttgart v Mainz

Sat, August 14

Mainz v Hamburg
Bayern Munich v Hertha
Monchengladbach v Dortmund
Hansa Rostock v Werder Bremen
Schalke v Kaiserslautern
Nurnberg v Stuttgart

Sun, August 15

Bochum v Leverkusen
Hannover v Bielefeld
Wolfsburg v Freiburg

Sat, August 28

Kaiserslautern v Stuttgart
Freiburg v Monchengladbach
Bielefeld v Bochum
Hertha v Mainz
Leverkusen v Bayern Munich
Hamburg v Nurnberg
Schalke v Hansa Rostock

Sun, August 29

Dortmund v Hannover
Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg

Sat, September 11

Mainz v Leverkusen
Bayern Munich v Bielefeld
Bochum v Dortmund
Monchengladbach v Werder Bremen
Wolfsburg v Schalke
Stuttgart v Hamburg
Nurnberg v Hertha

Sun, September 12

Hannover v Freiburg
Hansa Rostock v Kaiserslautern

Sat, September 18

Kaiserslautern v Hamburg
Dortmund v Bayern Munich
Freiburg v Bochum
Bielefeld v Mainz
Leverkusen v Nurnberg
Hertha v Stuttgart
Hansa Rostock v Wolfsburg
Werder Bremen v Hannover
Schalke v Monchengladbach

Sat, September 25

Mainz v Dortmund
Bayern Munich v Freiburg
Hannover v Schalke
Bochum v Werder Bremen
Monchengladbach v Hansa Rostock
Wolfsburg v Kaiserslautern
Stuttgart v Leverkusen
Hamburg v Hertha
Nurnberg v Bielefeld

Sat, October 2

Kaiserslautern v Hertha
Dortmund v Nurnberg
Freiburg v Mainz
Bielefeld v Stuttgart
Wolfsburg v Monchengladbach
Leverkusen v Hamburg
Hansa Rostock v Hannover
Werder Bremen v Bayern Munich
Schalke v Bochum

Sat, October 16

Mainz v Werder Bremen
Bochum v Hansa Rostock
Bayern Munich v Schalke
Hannover v Wolfsburg
Hertha v Leverkusen
Monchengladbach v Kaiserslautern
Hamburg v Bielefeld
Nurnberg v Freiburg
Stuttgart v Dortmund

Sat, October 23

Kaiserslautern v Leverkusen
Freiburg v Stuttgart
Dortmund v Hamburg
Bielefeld v Hertha
Monchengladbach v Hannover
Hansa Rostock v Bayern Munich
Wolfsburg v Bochum
Schalke v Mainz
Werder Bremen v Nurnberg

Wed, October 27

Mainz v Hansa Rostock
Bayern Munich v Wolfsburg
Bochum v Monchengladbach
Leverkusen v Bielefeld
Hannover v Kaiserslautern
Hertha v Dortmund
Hamburg v Freiburg
Stuttgart v Werder Bremen
Nurnberg v Schalke

Sat, October 30

Kaiserslautern v Bielefeld
Dortmund v Leverkusen
Freiburg v Hertha
Hannover v Bochum
Monchengladbach v Bayern Munich
Hansa Rostock v Nurnberg
Wolfsburg v Mainz
Schalke v Stuttgart
Werder Bremen v Hamburg

Sat, November 6

Mainz v Monchengladbach
Bochum v Kaiserslautern
Bayern Munich v Hannover
Bielefeld v Dortmund
Hertha v Werder Bremen
Leverkusen v Freiburg
Hamburg v Schalke
Nurnberg v Wolfsburg
Stuttgart v Hansa Rostock

Sat, November 13

Kaiserslautern v Dortmund
Freiburg v Bielefeld
Bochum v Bayern Munich
Monchengladbach v Nurnberg
Hannover v Mainz
Wolfsburg v Stuttgart
Hansa Rostock v Hamburg
Schalke v Hertha
Werder Bremen v Leverkusen

Sat, November 20

Mainz v Bochum
Dortmund v Freiburg
Bayern Munich v Kaiserslautern
Bielefeld v Werder Bremen
Leverkusen v Schalke
Hertha v Hansa Rostock
Stuttgart v Monchengladbach
Hamburg v Wolfsburg
Nurnberg v Hannover

Sat, November 27

Kaiserslautern v Freiburg
Bayern Munich v Mainz
Bochum v Nurnberg
Monchengladbach v Hamburg
Hannover v Stuttgart
Wolfsburg v Hertha
Schalke v Bielefeld
Hansa Rostock v Leverkusen
Werder Bremen v Dortmund

Sat, December 4

Kaiserslautern v Mainz
Freiburg v Werder Bremen
Dortmund v Schalke
Leverkusen v Wolfsburg
Bielefeld v Hansa Rostock
Hertha v Monchengladbach
Stuttgart v Bochum
Hamburg v Hannover
Nurnberg v Bayern Munich

Sat, December 11

Mainz v Nurnberg
Bayern Munich v Stuttgart
Hannover v Hertha
Bochum v Hamburg
Monchengladbach v Leverkusen
Hansa Rostock v Dortmund
Wolfsburg v Bielefeld
Schalke v Freiburg
Werder Bremen v Kaiserslautern

Sat, January 22, 2005

Nurnberg v Kaiserslautern
Hansa Rostock v Freiburg
Wolfsburg v Dortmund
Hannover v Leverkusen
Monchengladbach v Bielefeld
Bochum v Hertha
Bayern Munich v Hamburg
Mainz v Stuttgart
Schalke v Werder Bremen

Sat, January 29

Hamburg v Mainz
Hertha v Bayern Munich
Bielefeld v Hannover
Leverkusen v Bochum
Dortmund v Monchengladbach
Werder Bremen v Hansa Rostock
Freiburg v Wolfsburg
Stuttgart v Nurnberg
Kaiserslautern v Schalke

Sat, February 5

Stuttgart v Kaiserslautern
Monchengladbach v Freiburg
Hannover v Dortmund
Bochum v Bielefeld
Mainz v Hertha
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen
Nurnberg v Hamburg
Hansa Rostock v Schalke
Wolfsburg v Werder Bremen

Sat, February 12

Leverkusen v Mainz
Bielefeld v Bayern Munich
Dortmund v Bochum
Werder Bremen v Monchengladbach
Freiburg v Hannover
Schalke v Wolfsburg
Kaiserslautern v Hansa Rostock
Hertha v Nurnberg
Hamburg v Stuttgart

Sat, February 19

Hamburg v Kaiserslautern
Bayern Munich v Dortmund
Bochum v Freiburg
Mainz v Bielefeld
Stuttgart v Hertha
Nurnberg v Leverkusen
Wolfsburg v Hansa Rostock
Hannover v Werder Bremen
Monchengladbach v Schalke

Sat, February 26

Dortmund v Mainz
Freiburg v Bayern Munich
Schalke v Hannover
Werder Bremen v Bochum
Hertha v Hamburg
Hansa Rostock v Monchengladbach
Kaiserslautern v Wolfsburg
Leverkusen v Stuttgart
Bielefeld v Nurnberg

Sat, March 5

Hertha v Kaiserslautern
Nurnberg v Dortmund
Mainz v Freiburg
Stuttgart v Bielefeld
Monchengladbach v Wolfsburg
Hamburg v Leverkusen
Hannover v Hansa Rostock
Bochum v Schalke
Bayern Munich v Werder Bremen

Sat, March 12

Werder Bremen v Mainz
Hansa Rostock v Bochum
Schalke v Bayern Munich
Wolfsburg v Hannover
Leverkusen v Hertha
Kaiserslautern v Monchengladbach
Bielefeld v Hamburg
Dortmund v Stuttgart
Freiburg v Nurnberg

Sat, March 19

Leverkusen v Kaiserslautern
Stuttgart v Freiburg
Hertha v Bielefeld
Hamburg v Dortmund
Hannover v Monchengladbach
Bayern Munich v Hansa Rostock
Bochum v Wolfsburg
Mainz v Schalke
Nurnberg v Werder Bremen

Sat, April 2

Hansa Rostock v Mainz
Wolfsburg v Bayern Munich
Monchengladbach v Bochum
Bielefeld v Leverkusen
Kaiserslautern v Hannover
Dortmund v Hertha
Freiburg v Hamburg
Schalke v Nurnberg
Werder Bremen v Stuttgart

Sat, April 9

Bielefeld v Kaiserslautern
Leverkusen v Dortmund
Hertha v Freiburg
Bochum v Hannover
Mainz v Wolfsburg
Bayern Munich v Monchengladbach
Nurnberg v Hansa Rostock
Hamburg v Werder Bremen
Stuttgart v Schalke

Sat, April 16

Monchengladbach v Mainz
Kaiserslautern v Bochum
Hannover v Bayern Munich
Dortmund v Bielefeld
Freiburg v Leverkusen
Schalke v Hamburg
Werder Bremen v Hertha
Hansa Rostock v Stuttgart
Wolfsburg v Nurnberg

Sat, April 23

Dortmund v Kaiserslautern
Bayern Munich v Bochum
Bielefeld v Freiburg
Mainz v Hannover
Nurnberg v Monchengladbach
Hamburg v Hansa Rostock
Stuttgart v Wolfsburg
Hertha v Schalke
Leverkusen v Werder Bremen

Sat, April 30

Bochum v Mainz
Kaiserslautern v Bayern Munich
Freiburg v Dortmund
Schalke v Leverkusen
Werder Bremen v Bielefeld
Hansa Rostock v Hertha
Wolfsburg v Hamburg
Hannover v Nurnberg
Monchengladbach v Stuttgart

Sat, May 7

Freiburg v Kaiserslautern
Mainz v Bayern Munich
Nurnberg v Bochum
Hamburg v Monchengladbach
Stuttgart v Hannover
Hertha v Wolfsburg
Leverkusen v Hansa Rostock
Dortmund v Werder Bremen
Bielefeld v Schalke

Sat, May 14

Mainz v Kaiserslautern
Werder Bremen v Freiburg
Hansa Rostock v Bielefeld
Schalke v Dortmund
Wolfsburg v Leverkusen
Monchengladbach v Hertha
Bochum v Stuttgart
Hannover v Hamburg
Bayern Munich v Nurnberg

Sat, May 21

Nurnberg v Mainz
Hamburg v Bochum
Stuttgart v Bayern Munich
Hertha v Hannover
Bielefeld v Wolfsburg
Freiburg v Schalke
Leverkusen v Monchengladbach
Dortmund v Hansa Rostock
Kaiserslautern v Werder Bremen

ITALY

Sun, September 12, 2004

Atalanta v Lecce
Brescia v Juventus
Cagliari v Bologna
Chievo v Inter
Milan v Livorno
Palermo v Siena
Parma v Messina
Reggina v Udinese
Roma v Fiorentina
Sampdoria v Lazio
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, January 23, 2005

Sun, September 19

Bologna v Milan
Fiorentina v Cagliari
Inter v Palermo
Juventus v Atalanta
Lazio v Reggina
Lecce v Brescia
Livorno v Chievo
Messina v Roma
Siena v Sampdoria
Udinese v Parma
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, January 30, 2005

Wed, September 22

Atalanta v Inter
Brescia v Lazio
Cagliari v Siena
Chievo v Udinese
Milan v Messina
Palermo v Fiorentina
Parma v Bologna
Reggina v Livorno
Roma v Lecce
Sampdoria v Juventus
Reverse fixtures:
Wed, February 2, 2005

Sun, September 26

Bologna v Roma
Fiorentina v Sampdoria
Inter v Parma
Juventus v Palermo
Lazio v Milan
Lecce v Cagliari
Livorno v Atalanta
Messina v Chievo
Siena v Reggina
Udinese v Brescia
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, February 6, 2005

Sun, October 3

Atalanta v Lazio
Cagliari v Brescia
Chievo v Lecce
Messina v Siena
Milan v Reggina
Palermo v Bologna
Parma v Fiorentina
Roma v Inter
Sampdoria v Livorno
Udinese v Juventus
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, February 13, 2005

Sun, October 17

Bologna v Atalanta
Brescia v Parma
Cagliari v Milan
Fiorentina v Siena
Inter v Udinese
Juventus v Messina
Lazio v Chievo
Lecce v Palermo
Livorno v Roma
Reggina v Sampdoria
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, February 20, 2005

Sun, October 24

Atalanta v Cagliari
Chievo v Reggina
Livorno v Bologna
Messina v Lecce
Milan v Inter
Parma v Lazio
Roma v Palermo
Sampdoria v Brescia
Siena v Juventus
Udinese v Fiorentina
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, February 27, 2005

Wed, October 27

Bologna v Udinese
Brescia v Siena
Cagliari v Parma
Chievo v Sampdoria
Juventus v Roma
Lazio v Messina
Lecce v Inter
Milan v Atalanta
Palermo v Livorno
Reggina v Fiorentina
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, March 6, 2005

Sun, October 31

Fiorentina v Lecce
Inter v Lazio
Juventus v Chievo
Livorno v Brescia
Messina v Reggina
Parma v Atalanta
Roma v Cagliari
Sampdoria v Milan
Siena v Bologna
Udinese v Palermo
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, March 13, 2005

Sun, November 7

Atalanta v Sampdoria
Bologna v Messina
Brescia v Chievo
Cagliari v Livorno
Fiorentina v Inter
Lazio v Siena
Lecce v Udinese
Milan v Roma
Palermo v Parma
Reggina v Juventus
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, March 20, 2005

Wed, November 10

Brescia v Milan
Chievo v Atalanta
Inter v Bologna
Juventus v Fiorentina
Livorno v Lazio
Messina v Palermo
Parma v Reggina
Roma v Udinese
Sampdoria v Cagliari
Siena v Lecce
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, April 3, 2005

Sun, November 14

Atalanta v Brescia
Cagliari v Inter
Fiorentina v Livorno
Lazio v Bologna
Lecce v Juventus
Milan v Siena
Palermo v Sampdoria
Parma v Chievo
Reggina v Roma
Udinese v Messina
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, April 10, 2005

Sun, November 28

Atalanta v Reggina
Bologna v Lecce
Brescia v Palermo
Chievo v Milan
Inter v Juventus
Lazio v Cagliari
Livorno v Udinese
Messina v Fiorentina
Sampdoria v Parma
Siena v Roma
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, April 17, 2005

Sun, December 5

Cagliari v Chievo
Fiorentina v Bologna
Inter v Messina
Juventus v Lazio
Lecce v Livorno
Palermo v Atalanta
Parma v Milan
Reggina v Brescia
Roma v Sampdoria
Udinese v Siena
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, April 24, 2005

Sun, December 12

Atalanta v Udinese
Bologna v Juventus
Brescia v Roma
Chievo v Palermo
Lazio v Lecce
Livorno v Parma
Milan v Fiorentina
Reggina v Cagliari
Sampdoria v Messina
Siena v Inter
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, May 1, 2005

Sun, December 19

Bologna v Reggina
Fiorentina v Chievo
Inter v Brescia
Juventus v Milan
Lecce v Sampdoria
Messina v Atalanta
Palermo v Cagliari
Roma v Parma
Siena v Livorno
Udinese v Lazio
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, May 8, 2005

Thu, January 6, 2005

Atalanta v Fiorentina
Brescia v Bologna
Cagliari v Messina
Chievo v Siena
Lazio v Roma
Livorno v Inter
Milan v Lecce
Parma v Juventus
Reggina v Palermo
Sampdoria v Udinese
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, May 15, 2005

Sun, January 9

Bologna v Chievo
Fiorentina v Lazio
Inter v Sampdoria
Juventus v Livorno
Lecce v Reggina
Messina v Brescia
Palermo v Milan
Roma v Atalanta
Siena v Parma
Udinese v Cagliari
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, May 22, 2005

Sun, January 16

Atalanta v Siena
Brescia v Fiorentina
Cagliari v Juventus
Chievo v Roma
Lazio v Palermo
Livorno v Messina
Milan v Udinese
Parma v Lecce
Reggina v Inter
Sampdoria v Bologna
Reverse fixtures:
Sun, May 29, 2005

PORTUGAL

Sun, August 29, 2004

Academica v Sporting Braga
Moreirense v Guimaraes
Boavista v Nacional
Penafiel v Setubal
Estoril v Rio Ave
Beira Mar v Benfica
Sporting Lisbon v Gil Vicente
Belenenses v Maritimo
FC Porto v Uniao Leiria

Sun, September 12

Guimaraes v Academica
Benfica v Moreirense
Nacional v Beira Mar
Sporting Braga v FC Porto
Gil Vicente v Boavista
Setubal v Sporting Lisbon
Maritimo v Penafiel
Uniao Leiria v Estoril
Rio Ave v Belenenses

Sun, September 19

Moreirense v Nacional
Sporting Braga v Guimaraes
Academica v Benfica
Beira Mar v Gil Vicente
Sporting Lisbon v Maritimo
Belenenses v Uniao Leiria
Boavista v Setubal
FC Porto v Estoril
Penafiel v Rio Ave

Sun, September 26

Nacional v Academica
Benfica v Sporting Braga
Gil Vicente v Moreirense
Guimaraes v FC Porto
Setubal v Beira Mar
Rio Ave v Sporting Lisbon
Maritimo v Boavista
Uniao Leiria v Penafiel
Estoril v Belenenses

Sun, October 3

Guimaraes v Benfica
Academica v Gil Vicente
Sporting Braga v Nacional
Moreirense v Setubal
Boavista v Rio Ave
Beira Mar v Maritimo
Sporting Lisbon v Uniao Leiria
Penafiel v Estoril
FC Porto v Belenenses

Sun, October 17

Benfica v FC Porto
Nacional v Guimaraes
Setubal v Academica
Gil Vicente v Sporting Braga
Uniao Leiria v Boavista
Maritimo v Moreirense
Rio Ave v Beira Mar
Estoril v Sporting Lisbon
Belenenses v Penafiel

Sun, October 24

Benfica v Nacional
Sporting Braga v Setubal
Guimaraes v Gil Vicente
Academica v Maritimo
Beira Mar v Uniao Leiria
Sporting Lisbon v Belenenses
Moreirense v Rio Ave
Boavista v Estoril
FC Porto v Penafiel

Sun, October 31

Nacional v FC Porto
Gil Vicente v Benfica
Maritimo v Sporting Braga
Uniao Leiria v Moreirense
Setubal v Guimaraes
Rio Ave v Academica
Estoril v Beira Mar
Penafiel v Sporting Lisbon
Belenenses v Boavista

Sun, November 7

Nacional v Gil Vicente
Guimaraes v Maritimo
Benfica v Setubal
Sporting Braga v Rio Ave
Academica v Uniao Leiria
Beira Mar v Belenenses
FC Porto v Sporting Lisbon
Moreirense v Estoril
Boavista v Penafiel

Sat, November 13

Gil Vicente v FC Porto
Setubal v Nacional
Maritimo v Benfica
Uniao Leiria v Sporting Braga
Belenenses v Moreirense
Rio Ave v Guimaraes
Estoril v Academica
Penafiel v Beira Mar
Sporting Lisbon v Boavista

Sun, November 21

Gil Vicente v Setubal
Benfica v Rio Ave
Nacional v Maritimo
Guimaraes v Uniao Leiria
Sporting Braga v Estoril
Moreirense v Penafiel
FC Porto v Boavista
Academica v Belenenses
Beira Mar v Sporting Lisbon

Sun, November 28

Setubal v FC Porto
Rio Ave v Nacional
Maritimo v Gil Vicente
Uniao Leiria v Benfica
Belenenses v Sporting Braga
Sporting Lisbon v Moreirense
Estoril v Guimaraes
Penafiel v Academica
Boavista v Beira Mar

Sun, December 5

Setubal v Maritimo
Gil Vicente v Rio Ave
Benfica v Estoril
Nacional v Uniao Leiria
Guimaraes v Belenenses
Academica v Sporting Lisbon
FC Porto v Beira Mar
Sporting Braga v Penafiel
Moreirense v Boavista

Sun, December 12

Maritimo v FC Porto
Rio Ave v Setubal
Uniao Leiria v Gil Vicente
Belenenses v Benfica
Estoril v Nacional
Penafiel v Guimaraes
Sporting Lisbon v Sporting Braga
Beira Mar v Moreirense
Boavista v Academica

Sun, December 19

Maritimo v Rio Ave
Gil Vicente v Estoril
Setubal v Uniao Leiria
Nacional v Belenenses
Benfica v Penafiel
Sporting Braga v Boavista
FC Porto v Moreirense
Guimaraes v Sporting Lisbon
Academica v Beira Mar

Sun, January 9, 2005

FC Porto v Rio Ave
Estoril v Setubal
Uniao Leiria v Maritimo
Belenenses v Gil Vicente
Penafiel v Nacional
Boavista v Guimaraes
Moreirense v Academica
Sporting Lisbon v Benfica
Beira Mar v Sporting Braga

Sun, January 16

Rio Ave v Uniao Leiria
Setubal v Belenenses
Maritimo v Estoril
Gil Vicente v Penafiel
Benfica v Boavista
Nacional v Sporting Lisbon
Guimaraes v Beira Mar
Sporting Braga v Moreirense
Academica v FC Porto

Sun, January 23

Sporting Braga v Academica
Guimaraes v Moreirense
Benfica v Beira Mar
Gil Vicente v Sporting Lisbon
Maritimo v Belenenses
Nacional v Boavista
Setubal v Penafiel
Rio Ave v Estoril
Uniao Leiria v FC Porto

Sun, January 30

FC Porto v Sporting Braga
Academica v Guimaraes
Moreirense v Benfica
Boavista v Gil Vicente
Beira Mar v Nacional
Sporting Lisbon v Setubal
Penafiel v Maritimo
Estoril v Uniao Leiria
Belenenses v Rio Ave

Sun, February 6

Guimaraes v Sporting Braga
Nacional v Moreirense
Benfica v Academica
Gil Vicente v Beira Mar
Maritimo v Sporting Lisbon
Uniao Leiria v Belenenses
Setubal v Boavista
Rio Ave v Penafiel
Estoril v FC Porto

Sun, February 13

Sporting Braga v Benfica
FC Porto v Guimaraes
Academica v Nacional
Beira Mar v Setubal
Sporting Lisbon v Rio Ave
Moreirense v Gil Vicente
Boavista v Maritimo
Penafiel v Uniao Leiria
Belenenses v Estoril

Sun, February 20

Nacional v Sporting Braga
Benfica v Guimaraes
Setubal v Moreirense
Rio Ave v Boavista
Gil Vicente v Academica
Maritimo v Beira Mar
Uniao Leiria v Sporting Lisbon
Estoril v Penafiel
Belenenses v FC Porto

Sun, February 27

FC Porto v Benfica
Sporting Braga v Gil Vicente
Moreirense v Maritimo
Guimaraes v Nacional
Academica v Setubal
Beira Mar v Rio Ave
Sporting Lisbon v Estoril
Boavista v Uniao Leiria
Penafiel v Belenenses

Sun, March 6

Nacional v Benfica
Setubal v Sporting Braga
Gil Vicente v Guimaraes
Maritimo v Academica
Rio Ave v Moreirense
Estoril v Boavista
Uniao Leiria v Beira Mar
Belenenses v Sporting Lisbon
Penafiel v FC Porto

Sun, March 13

Benfica v Gil Vicente
FC Porto v Nacional
Guimaraes v Setubal
Academica v Rio Ave
Beira Mar v Estoril
Sporting Braga v Maritimo
Moreirense v Uniao Leiria
Boavista v Belenenses
Sporting Lisbon v Penafiel

Sun, March 20

Gil Vicente v Nacional
Maritimo v Guimaraes
Uniao Leiria v Academica
Setubal v Benfica
Rio Ave v Sporting Braga
Estoril v Moreirense
Penafiel v Boavista
Belenenses v Beira Mar
Sporting Lisbon v FC Porto

Sun, April 3

FC Porto v Gil Vicente
Benfica v Maritimo
Nacional v Setubal
Guimaraes v Rio Ave
Academica v Estoril
Sporting Braga v Uniao Leiria
Moreirense v Belenenses
Beira Mar v Penafiel
Boavista v Sporting Lisbon

Sun, April 10

Setubal v Gil Vicente
Maritimo v Nacional
Rio Ave v Benfica
Estoril v Sporting Braga
Uniao Leiria v Guimaraes
Belenenses v Academica
Sporting Lisbon v Beira Mar
Penafiel v Moreirense
Boavista v FC Porto

Sun, April 17

FC Porto v Setubal
Nacional v Rio Ave
Guimaraes v Estoril
Gil Vicente v Maritimo
Benfica v Uniao Leiria
Sporting Braga v Belenenses
Moreirense v Sporting Lisbon
Academica v Penafiel
Beira Mar v Boavista

Sun, April 24

Maritimo v Setubal
Uniao Leiria v Nacional
Rio Ave v Gil Vicente
Estoril v Benfica
Penafiel v Sporting Braga
Belenenses v Guimaraes
Beira Mar v FC Porto
Sporting Lisbon v Academica
Boavista v Moreirense

Sat, April 30

FC Porto v Maritimo
Setubal v Rio Ave
Nacional v Estoril
Gil Vicente v Uniao Leiria
Benfica v Belenenses
Guimaraes v Penafiel
Academica v Boavista
Sporting Braga v Sporting Lisbon
Moreirense v Beira Mar

Sun, May 8

Rio Ave v Maritimo
Estoril v Gil Vicente
Uniao Leiria v Setubal
Belenenses v Nacional
Penafiel v Benfica
Boavista v Sporting Braga
Sporting Lisbon v Guimaraes
Beira Mar v Academica
Moreirense v FC Porto

Sun, May 15

Rio Ave v FC Porto
Maritimo v Uniao Leiria
Gil Vicente v Belenenses
Setubal v Estoril
Nacional v Penafiel
Guimaraes v Boavista
Academica v Moreirense
Benfica v Sporting Lisbon
Sporting Braga v Beira Mar

Sun, May 22

Uniao Leiria v Rio Ave
Estoril v Maritimo
Penafiel v Gil Vicente
Belenenses v Setubal
Sporting Lisbon v Nacional
Boavista v Benfica
Moreirense v Sporting Braga
Beira Mar v Guimaraes
FC Porto v Academica

SPAIN

Sun, August 29, 2004

Atletico Madrid v Malaga
Espanyol v Deportivo La Coruna
Real Sociedad v Levante
Racing Santander v Barcelona
Sevilla v Albacete
Valencia v Villarreal
Mallorca v Real Madrid
Zaragoza v Getafe
Osasuna v Athletic Bilbao
Numancia v Betis

Sun, September 12

Albacete v Atletico Madrid
Athletic Bilbao v Valencia
Betis v Espanyol
Barcelona v Sevilla
Deportivo La Coruna v Osasuna
Real Madrid v Numancia
Levante v Racing Santander
Malaga v Zaragoza
Getafe v Mallorca
Villarreal v Real Sociedad

Sun, September 19

Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo La Coruna
Atletico Madrid v Barcelona
Racing Santander v Villarreal
Valencia v Real Sociedad
Espanyol v Real Madrid
Sevilla v Levante
Zaragoza v Albacete
Osasuna v Betis
Mallorca v Malaga
Numancia v Getafe

Wed, September 22

Albacete v Mallorca
Betis v Athletic Bilbao
Barcelona v Zaragoza
Deportivo La Coruna v Valencia
Real Sociedad v Racing Santander
Real Madrid v Osasuna
Getafe v Espanyol
Levante v Atletico Madrid
Malaga v Numancia
Villarreal v Sevilla

Sun, September 26

Athletic Bilbao v Real Madrid
Deportivo La Coruna v Betis
Atletico Madrid v Villarreal
Espanyol v Malaga
Sevilla v Real Sociedad
Valencia v Racing Santander
Mallorca v Barcelona
Numancia v Albacete
Zaragoza v Levante
Osasuna v Getafe

Sun, October 3

Albacete v Espanyol
Betis v Valencia
Real Madrid v Deportivo La Coruna
Barcelona v Numancia
Racing Santander v Sevilla
Real Sociedad v Atletico Madrid
Getafe v Athletic Bilbao
Villarreal v Zaragoza
Levante v Mallorca
Malaga v Osasuna

Sun, October 17

Valencia v Sevilla
Athletic Bilbao v Malaga
Betis v Real Madrid
Espanyol v Barcelona
Atletico Madrid v Racing Santander
Deportivo La Coruna v Getafe
Zaragoza v Real Sociedad
Osasuna v Albacete
Mallorca v Villarreal
Numancia v Levante

Sun, October 24

Albacete v Athletic Bilbao
Barcelona v Osasuna
Real Madrid v Valencia
Sevilla v Atletico Madrid
Racing Santander v Zaragoza
Real Sociedad v Mallorca
Getafe v Betis
Villarreal v Numancia
Levante v Espanyol
Malaga v Deportivo La Coruna

Sun, October 31

Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona
Deportivo La Coruna v Albacete
Betis v Malaga
Espanyol v Villarreal
Valencia v Atletico Madrid
Mallorca v Racing Santander
Real Madrid v Getafe
Zaragoza v Sevilla
Osasuna v Levante
Numancia v Real Sociedad

Sun, November 7

Albacete v Betis
Barcelona v Deportivo La Coruna
Real Sociedad v Espanyol
Atletico Madrid v Zaragoza
Racing Santander v Numancia
Sevilla v Mallorca
Levante v Athletic Bilbao
Getafe v Valencia
Villarreal v Osasuna
Malaga v Real Madrid

Sun, November 14

Athletic Bilbao v Villarreal
Deportivo La Coruna v Levante
Real Madrid v Albacete
Betis v Barcelona
Espanyol v Racing Santander
Valencia v Zaragoza
Mallorca v Atletico Madrid
Getafe v Malaga
Osasuna v Real Sociedad
Numancia v Sevilla

Sun, November 21

Albacete v Getafe
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Atletico Madrid v Numancia
Racing Santander v Osasuna
Real Sociedad v Athletic Bilbao
Zaragoza v Mallorca
Sevilla v Espanyol
Levante v Betis
Villarreal v Deportivo La Coruna
Malaga v Valencia

Sun, November 28

Athletic Bilbao v Racing Santander
Betis v Villarreal
Deportivo La Coruna v Real Sociedad
Espanyol v Atletico Madrid
Real Madrid v Levante
Getafe v Barcelona
Valencia v Mallorca
Osasuna v Sevilla
Numancia v Zaragoza
Malaga v Albacete

Sun, December 5

Albacete v Valencia
Barcelona v Malaga
Atletico Madrid v Osasuna
Racing Santander v Deportivo La Coruna
Real Sociedad v Betis
Zaragoza v Espanyol
Sevilla v Athletic Bilbao
Levante v Getafe
Villarreal v Real Madrid
Mallorca v Numancia

Sun, December 12

Albacete v Barcelona
Athletic Bilbao v Atletico Madrid
Deportivo La Coruna v Sevilla
Real Madrid v Real Sociedad
Betis v Racing Santander
Espanyol v Mallorca
Valencia v Numancia
Osasuna v Zaragoza
Getafe v Villarreal
Malaga v Levante

Sun, December 19

Atletico Madrid v Deportivo La Coruna
Barcelona v Valencia
Racing Santander v Real Madrid
Sevilla v Betis
Real Sociedad v Getafe
Zaragoza v Athletic Bilbao
Mallorca v Osasuna
Levante v Albacete
Villarreal v Malaga
Numancia v Espanyol

Wed, December 22

Albacete v Villarreal
Athletic Bilbao v Mallorca
Betis v Atletico Madrid
Real Madrid v Sevilla
Barcelona v Levante
Deportivo La Coruna v Zaragoza
Valencia v Espanyol
Osasuna v Numancia
Getafe v Racing Santander
Malaga v Real Sociedad

Sun, January 9, 2005

Real Sociedad v Albacete
Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid
Racing Santander v Malaga
Espanyol v Osasuna
Sevilla v Getafe
Zaragoza v Betis
Valencia v Levante
Mallorca v Deportivo La Coruna
Numancia v Athletic Bilbao
Villarreal v Barcelona

Sun, January 16

Albacete v Racing Santander
Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol
Barcelona v Real Sociedad
Deportivo La Coruna v Numancia
Betis v Mallorca
Real Madrid v Zaragoza
Levante v Villarreal
Getafe v Atletico Madrid
Osasuna v Valencia
Malaga v Sevilla

Sun, January 23

Getafe v Zaragoza
Albacete v Sevilla
Barcelona v Racing Santander
Deportivo La Coruna v Espanyol
Athletic Bilbao v Osasuna
Betis v Numancia
Real Madrid v Mallorca
Villarreal v Valencia
Malaga v Atletico Madrid
Levante v Real Sociedad

Sun, January 30

Atletico Madrid v Albacete
Espanyol v Betis
Racing Santander v Levante
Real Sociedad v Villarreal
Valencia v Athletic Bilbao
Sevilla v Barcelona
Zaragoza v Malaga
Mallorca v Getafe
Numancia v Real Madrid
Osasuna v Deportivo La Coruna

Sun, February 6

Albacete v Zaragoza
Betis v Osasuna
Real Madrid v Espanyol
Barcelona v Atletico Madrid
Deportivo La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao
Real Sociedad v Valencia
Levante v Sevilla
Malaga v Mallorca
Getafe v Numancia
Villarreal v Racing Santander

Sun, February 13

Athletic Bilbao v Betis
Atletico Madrid v Levante
Racing Santander v Real Sociedad
Valencia v Deportivo La Coruna
Espanyol v Getafe
Sevilla v Villarreal
Zaragoza v Barcelona
Osasuna v Real Madrid
Mallorca v Albacete
Numancia v Malaga

Sun, February 20

Albacete v Numancia
Barcelona v Mallorca
Betis v Deportivo La Coruna
Racing Santander v Valencia
Real Sociedad v Sevilla
Levante v Zaragoza
Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Getafe v Osasuna
Villarreal v Atletico Madrid
Malaga v Espanyol

Sun, February 27

Athletic Bilbao v Getafe
Deportivo La Coruna v Real Madrid
Atletico Madrid v Real Sociedad
Espanyol v Albacete
Valencia v Betis
Mallorca v Levante
Sevilla v Racing Santander
Zaragoza v Villarreal
Osasuna v Malaga
Numancia v Barcelona

Wed, March 2

Albacete v Osasuna
Barcelona v Espanyol
Racing Santander v Atletico Madrid
Real Sociedad v Zaragoza
Getafe v Deportivo La Coruna
Real Madrid v Betis
Sevilla v Valencia
Levante v Numancia
Malaga v Athletic Bilbao
Villarreal v Mallorca

Sun, March 6

Athletic Bilbao v Albacete
Betis v Getafe
Atletico Madrid v Sevilla
Deportivo La Coruna v Malaga
Valencia v Real Madrid
Mallorca v Real Sociedad
Espanyol v Levante
Zaragoza v Racing Santander
Osasuna v Barcelona
Numancia v Villarreal

Sun, March 13

Albacete v Deportivo La Coruna
Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao
Atletico Madrid v Valencia
Racing Santander v Mallorca
Real Sociedad v Numancia
Getafe v Real Madrid
Villarreal v Espanyol
Sevilla v Zaragoza
Levante v Osasuna
Malaga v Betis

Sun, March 20

Betis v Albacete
Athletic Bilbao v Levante
Deportivo La Coruna v Barcelona
Espanyol v Real Sociedad
Valencia v Getafe
Real Madrid v Malaga
Zaragoza v Atletico Madrid
Osasuna v Villarreal
Mallorca v Sevilla
Numancia v Racing Santander

Sun, April 3

Albacete v Real Madrid
Atletico Madrid v Mallorca
Barcelona v Betis
Real Sociedad v Osasuna
Racing Santander v Espanyol
Sevilla v Numancia
Zaragoza v Valencia
Villarreal v Athletic Bilbao
Levante v Deportivo La Coruna
Malaga v Getafe

Sun, April 10

Athletic Bilbao v Real Sociedad
Deportivo La Coruna v Villarreal
Betis v Levante
Espanyol v Sevilla
Real Madrid v Barcelona
Getafe v Albacete
Valencia v Malaga
Mallorca v Zaragoza
Osasuna v Racing Santander
Numancia v Atletico Madrid

Sun, April 17

Albacete v Malaga
Barcelona v Getafe
Atletico Madrid v Espanyol
Racing Santander v Athletic Bilbao
Real Sociedad v Deportivo La Coruna
Zaragoza v Numancia
Mallorca v Valencia
Sevilla v Osasuna
Levante v Real Madrid
Villarreal v Betis

Sun, April 24

Betis v Real Sociedad
Athletic Bilbao v Sevilla
Deportivo La Coruna v Racing Santander
Real Madrid v Villarreal
Getafe v Levante
Espanyol v Zaragoza
Valencia v Albacete
Osasuna v Atletico Madrid
Malaga v Barcelona
Numancia v Mallorca

Sun, May 1

Atletico Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
Racing Santander v Betis
Barcelona v Albacete
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid
Zaragoza v Osasuna
Mallorca v Espanyol
Numancia v Valencia
Sevilla v Deportivo La Coruna
Levante v Malaga
Villarreal v Getafe

Sun, May 8

Albacete v Levante
Betis v Sevilla
Athletic Bilbao v Zaragoza
Deportivo La Coruna v Atletico Madrid
Espanyol v Numancia
Valencia v Barcelona
Real Madrid v Racing Santander
Getafe v Real Sociedad
Osasuna v Mallorca
Malaga v Villarreal

Sun, May 15

Atletico Madrid v Betis
Espanyol v Valencia
Real Sociedad v Malaga
Zaragoza v Deportivo La Coruna
Racing Santander v Getafe
Sevilla v Real Madrid
Levante v Barcelona
Villarreal v Albacete
Mallorca v Athletic Bilbao
Numancia v Osasuna

Sun, May 22

Albacete v Real Sociedad
Barcelona v Villarreal
Athletic Bilbao v Numancia
Betis v Zaragoza
Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid
Deportivo La Coruna v Mallorca
Getafe v Sevilla
Levante v Valencia
Malaga v Racing Santander
Osasuna v Espanyol

Sun, May 29

Atletico Madrid v Getafe
Racing Santander v Albacete
Sevilla v Malaga
Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao
Real Sociedad v Barcelona
Valencia v Osasuna
Mallorca v Betis
Zaragoza v Real Madrid
Villarreal v Levante
Numancia v Deportivo La Coruna

NEXT MONTH

A WORLD SOCCER SPECIAL...

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE 2004-05 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

PLUS

OLYMPICS REVIEW

WORLD SOCCER

AHEAD OF THE GAME

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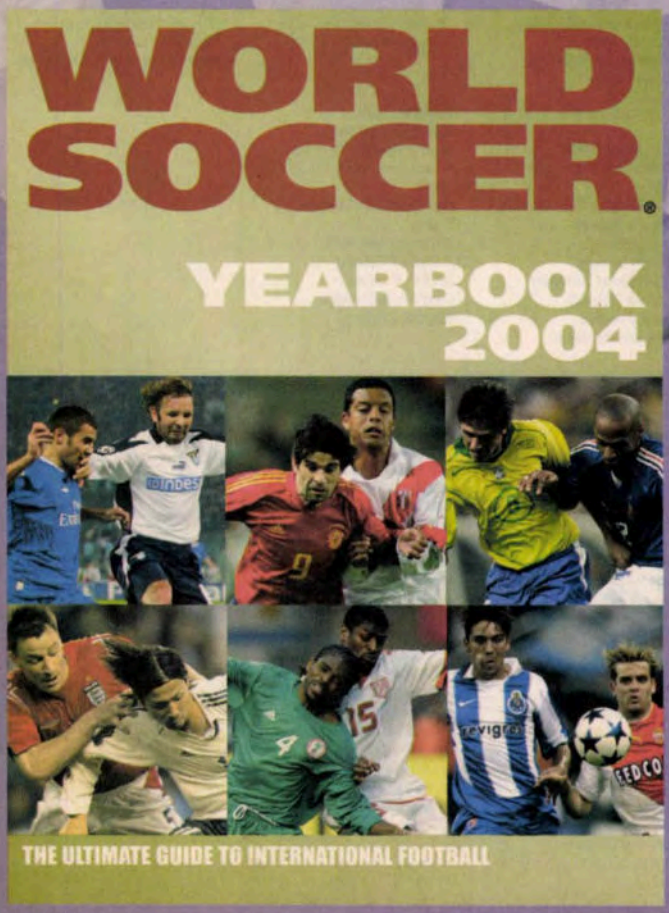

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Tournament Activities

Activities during the tournament week include: a Welcome Reception; Olympic-Style Opening Ceremony; JFK Museum, "Main Event" entertainment; Spirits of the World; and optional visits to South Fork Ranch and Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park.

Eligible Age Groups

SUPER GROUP (U-19)	Boys born Aug. 1, 1985 & later
GROUP A (U-19)	Boys born Aug. 1, 1985 & later
GROUP B (U-17)	Boys born Aug. 1, 1987 & later
GROUP C (U-16)	Boys born Aug. 1, 1988 & later
GROUP D (U-14)	Boys born Aug. 1, 1990 & later
GROUP E (U-12)	Boys born Aug. 1, 1992 & later

HomeStay Program

The Dallas Cup HomeStay Program is available to International teams. International players are hosted in the homes of local soccer teams that also participate in the tournament. This program is free, but is limited in availability.

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